



Amenorrhea

Amenorrhea

Type of amenorrhea and definition

Primary amenorrhea: the absence of menstrual cycle at the age of 14 without secondary sexual characteristics, or at the age 16 with secondary sexual characteristics

Secondary amenorrhea: the absence of menstrual cycle for 3 consecutive months in women with previously regular cycle or 6 months in women with irregular cycle.

Physiological amenorrhea causes: menopause, pre-menarche, pregnancy.

Breast present

Uterus present

Imperforated hymen (A)(B)

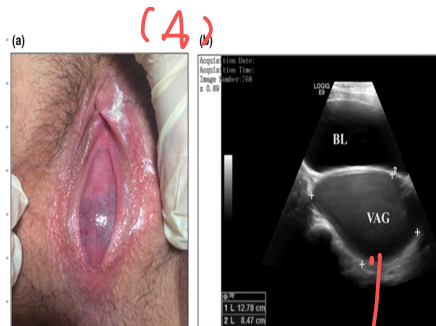
Transverse vaginal septum

Cervical atresia (no cervix)

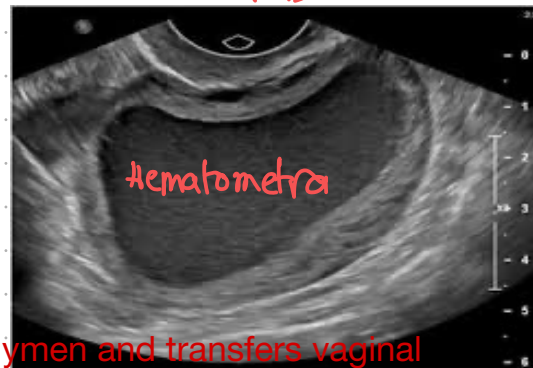
Pregnancy before menses

Anorexia nervosa

Excessive exercise



Primary amenorrhea (B)



Clinical presentation of imperforate of hymen and transverse vaginal septum:

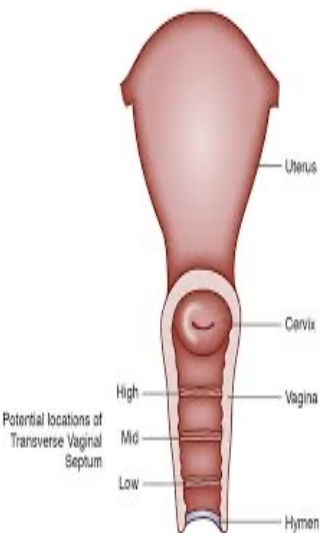
Cyclical lower abdominal pain and primary amenorrhea with secondary sexual characteristics

On physical exam: presence of secondary sexual characteristics, distended abdomen, enlarged uterus, bluish thin bulging hymen (specific in imperforated hymen)

On us: hematometra, hematocolpos, hemo-salpinx

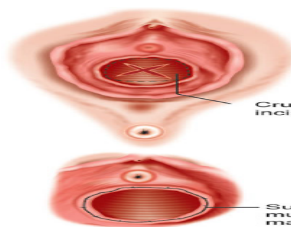
Treatment: **hymenectomy** (curcuate incision in the hymen in our society should be under parent should be consented and forensic should be present to give her medical report of the procedure)

Resection of the septum from the vagina route



Cause of transverse vaginal septum:

Failure of fusion of the müllerian duct and urogenital sinus

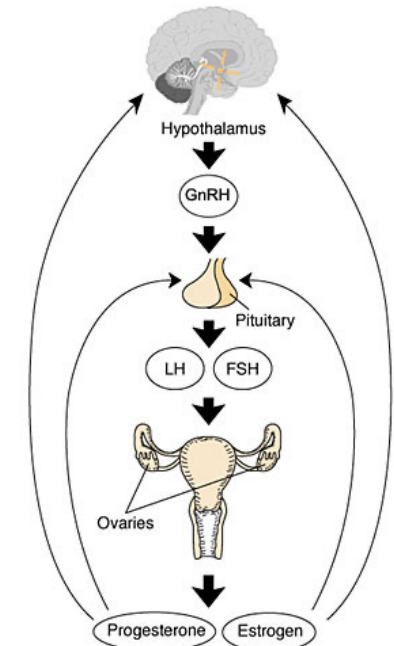


Cervical stenosis: same picture as imperforated hymen, except on us only hematometra seen, no hematocolpos as blood didn't reach vaginal and on exam normal vagina and hymen.

Treatment: trial to create a cervix high failure and mortality or TAH

Female pubic hair appearance	Pubic hair description	Breast appearance	Breast description
	No pubic hair		Elevation of papilla only
	Sparse growth chiefly along the labia/base of penis		Breast bud stage
	Darker, coarser, more curled hair		Enlargement of breast and areola
	Adult type hair over a smaller area		Projection of the areola and papilla
	Spread to the medial surface of the thighs		Recession of the areola to the contour of the breast, projection of papilla only

Thelarche is followed by pubarche (pubic hair development), growth spurt, and menarche



This tract should be intact for the menstrual cycle

Primary amenorrhea

Uterus absent

Breast present

Table II-11-1. Müllerian Agenesis versus Androgen Insensitivity

Breasts Present/ Uterus Absent	Müllerian Agenesis (46,XX)	Androgen Insensitivity (46,XY)
Uterus absent?	Idiopathic	MIF
Estrogen from?	Ovaries	Testes
Pubic hair?	Present	Absent
Testosterone level?	Female	Male
Treatment	No hormones Create vagina IVF—surrogate	Estrogen Create vagina Remove testes

Definition of abbreviations: MIF, Müllerian inhibitory factor.

The patient with (müllerian agenesis) had no upper vagina, no cervix, no uterus, no fallopian tube

But she had lower vagina as it came from urogenital sinus, and had ovaries which came from genital ridge

How to differentiate between them ? Karyotyping and testosterone level.

Primary amenorrhea

Uterus present

Breast absent

Table II-11-2. Gonadal Dysgenesis versus HP Axis Failure

Breasts Absent/ Uterus Present	Gonadal Dysgenesis (45,X)	HP Axis Failure (46,XX)
FSH	↑	↓
Why no estrogen?	No ovarian follicles	Follicles not stimulated
Ovaries?	“Streak”	Normal
Treatment pregnancy	E + P Egg donor	E + P Induce ovulation (HMG)
Diagnostic test?	Karyotyping	CNS imaging

- Kallman (failure to produce GnRH, anosmia)
- Excessive exercise, anorexia nervosa, stress, anxiety
- Brain tumor, radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, medication

• Treatment of the cause

Definition of abbreviations: E + P, estrogen and progestin; HMG, human menopausal gonadotropin.

Secondary amenorrhea

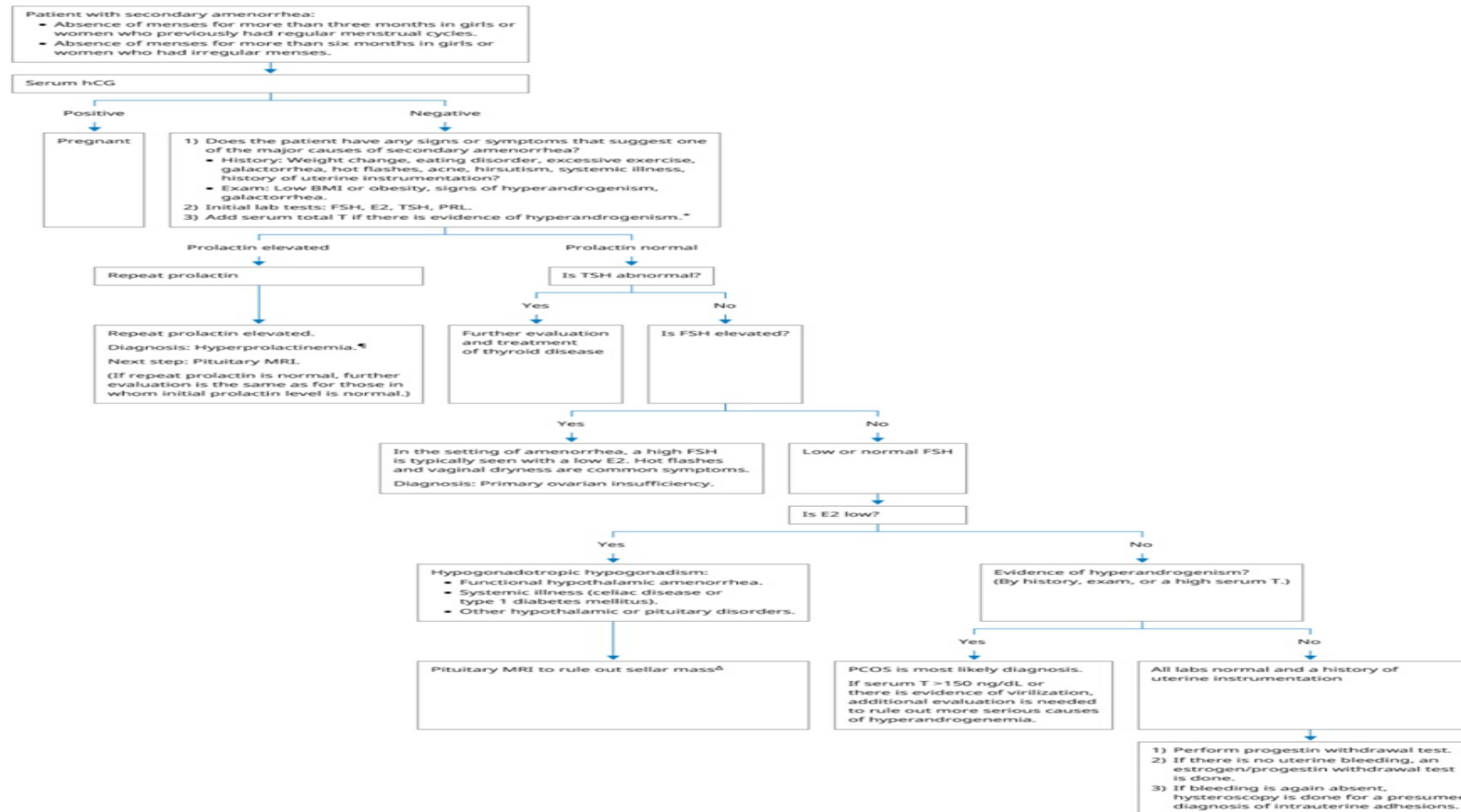
Secondary amenorrhea: the absence of menstrual cycle for 3 consecutive month in women with previously regular cycle or 6 month in women with irregular cycle.

In secondary amenorrhea you should always rule out pregnancy

hypogonadotropic (suggesting hypothalamic or pituitary dysfunction)
hypergonadotropic (suggesting ovarian follicular failure),
eugonadotropic (suggesting pregnancy, anovulation, or uterine or outflow tract pathology).



Evaluation of secondary amenorrhea



This algorithm offers a stepwise approach to the evaluation of secondary amenorrhea. For further details, refer to additional UpToDate content on the causes, evaluation, and treatment of secondary amenorrhea.

BMI: body mass index; E2: estradiol; FSH: follicle-stimulating hormone; hCG: human chorionic gonadotropin; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; PCOS: polycystic ovary syndrome; PRL: prolactin; T: testosterone; TSH: thyroid-stimulating hormone.

* Many clinicians also measure serum 17-hydroxyprogesterone at the initial visit to rule out nonclassic 21-hydroxylase deficiency. Some also measure serum dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS).

† Mild hyperprolactinemia can sometimes be seen with hypothyroidism. Euthyroidism should be confirmed before performing MRI.

‡ Pituitary MRI not required in those with clear explanation for their hypogonadotropic amenorrhea, eg, eating disorder, excessive exercise, celiac disease, or type 1 diabetes mellitus.

