

Conference Materials

The risk of endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer

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Keywords: endometriosis, ovarian cancer, infertility, nulliparity, hyperestrogenism

<https://doi.org/10.46989/001c.126484>

Journal of IVF-Worldwide

Vol. 2, Issue 4.1, 2024



URL: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/ZCMu5C2Thso>

In this in-depth and informative video, Prof. Johnny Younis, from Israel, takes the audience on a profound exploration of the intricate relationship between endometriosis and the potential development of ovarian cancer. The core premise revolves around the understanding that while endometriosis itself doesn't serve as a direct cause of cancer, there's a discernible increase in the risk of specific ovarian cancers for individuals dealing with endometriosis. This nuanced insight is foundational to the entire discussion.

Clear cell and endometrioid ovarian carcinomas, as emphasized by the speaker, are notably linked to endometriosis, establishing a strong association between the two. However, the linkage isn't as clearly defined for other ovarian malignancies, underlining the complexity of this medical phenomenon. The lifetime risk of encountering endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer is estimated to hover around 2.1 percent, a statistically low figure compared to the prevalence of various other forms of cancer. This statistical insight is crucial for contextualizing the risks associated with endometriosis in the realm of broader health concerns.

One pivotal aspect pertains to the challenge of distinguishing between a benign endometrioma and endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer, a task of utmost importance for informed medical decisions. The video meticulously de-

lineates various risk factors that come into play during the diagnostic process. Factors like advanced age, pelvic pain symptoms, long-lasting endometriosis, nulliparity, infertility, hyperestrogenism, and an enlarged endometrioma play significant roles in this differentiation. Additionally, the discussion brings to light the significance of cutting-edge diagnostic tools such as transvaginal ultrasound and MRI, illuminating how they can be invaluable in making accurate distinctions.

The discourse doesn't merely touch on the medical aspects; it delves deep into the controversial domain of treatment, especially the surgical intervention route. While surgery is advocated by some as a potential remedy, especially for addressing infertility linked to endometriosis, there's a counterargument challenging its robustness in enhancing fertility. The potential adverse effects of surgery on ovarian reserve, reproductive capacity, and the need for repetitive operations are carefully weighed, thus ensuring a balanced view of the treatment landscape.

Furthermore, the speaker illuminates the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, asserting that decisions shouldn't be solely dictated by the potential risk of endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer. This critical insight emphasizes individualized and careful evaluation of each case, taking into account a multitude of factors.

The video underscores the need for vigilant monitoring, particularly for women showcasing symptoms of endometriosis and those with substantial endometriomas. It emphasizes that the risk, while existing, is still relatively low compared to other health concerns. This balanced perspective ensures a comprehensive understanding of the situation without undue alarm.

In summation, the presentation thoroughly explores a complex medical topic, amalgamating scientific intricacies with practical implications. It is a crucial resource that not only educates the audience but also encourages further research and a holistic approach to addressing endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer, ultimately contributing to enhanced healthcare and well-being for those affected.

Submitted: November 24, 2024 CST, Accepted: November 24, 2024 CST



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