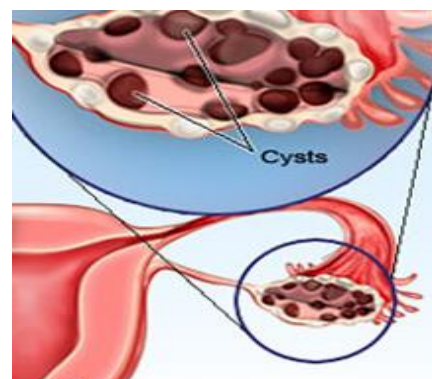


Differential Diagnosis of Pelvic Pain in Females

Obstetric	Gynaecological	Other
Ectopic pregnancy	Ovarian cyst rupture/ torsion	Appendicitis
Ruptured corpus luteum cyst	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	UTI- Cystitis
Miscarriage	Endometriosis	Adhesions
Placental abruption	Degenerative fibroid	Strangulated hernia

**Ovarian cyst rupture/ torsion**

- Ovarian cysts are common, often causing no symptoms unless they rupture or cause ovarian/ adnexal torsion
- Divided into
  - Functional cysts i.e. part of the normal menstrual cycle e.g. follicular/ corpus luteum cysts
  - Non- functional cysts e.g. dermoid cysts or chocolate cysts associated with endometriosis
- Rupture is usually self- limiting but may cause varying degrees of pain and in rare cases can cause haemorrhage
- Ovarian cysts increase the risk of ovarian torsion as the irregularity creates a pivot on which the structures can twist
- Torsion involves the ovary (& fallopian tube) twisting on its pedicle (suspensory ligament which contains the ovarian vessels)
- Causes vascular occlusion, & subsequent infarction and necrosis
- Symptoms will include sudden onset unilateral iliac fossa pain



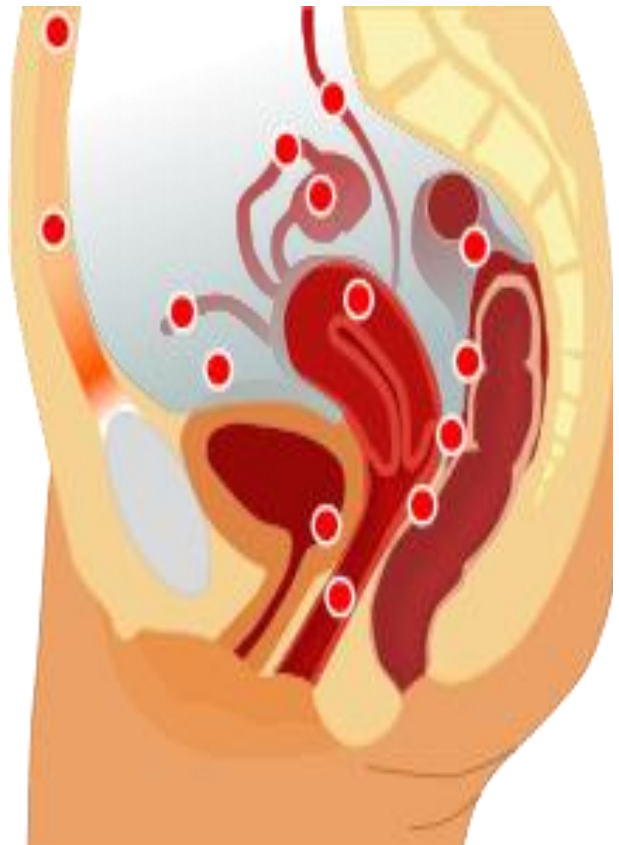
**Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**

- Infection of the upper female reproductive system including the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries & internal pelvis
- It may be asymptomatic or may cause abdominal/ pelvic pain, dysuria, dyspareunia, fever, discharge or irregular menstruation
- If untreated it causes increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, infertility and malignancy
- Most often caused by sexually transmitted infections e.g. *Chlamydia trachomatis* & *Neisseria gonorrhoea* other causes include *E.coli* and *streptococcal* species
- If STI/ PID are suspected advise the patient to attend the Sandyford clinic



## Endometriosis

- Caused by uterine tissue (endometrium) grows outside the uterus.
- Possible sites include ovaries/Fallopian tubes or tissues surrounding the reproductive organs including the peritoneum
- Since the endometrial tissue reacts to hormonal stimulation and so bleed during menstruation
- The resultant inflammation causes pain & adhesions
- The main symptoms are of dysmenorrhoea, dyspareunia, dysuria & infertility
- Can cause chocolate cysts within the ovary  
These are caused by seeding of endometrial tissue within the ovary and subsequent growth until it ruptures causing sudden increase in pain
- They are usually self-limiting



## Degenerative or twisted fibroids

- Uterine fibroids (or leiomyomas) are benign smooth muscle tumours of the uterus
- Usually asymptomatic unless size causes mass effect
- Transformation to malignant tumours is extremely rare
- If the fibroid continues to grow, it may outgrow its vascular supply causing necrosis & resulting in significant pelvic pain
- Degeneration may also occur during pregnancy  
Pelvic pain may also be associated with pyrexia & elevated WCC
- Similar to ovarian cysts they may twist causing occlusion of vascular supply, resulting in ischaemia & necrosis

