

# GYNECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGIES

Based on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia at [www.wikipedia.org/BLOOD](http://www.wikipedia.org/BLOOD) and Mária Gyorffy: English for Doctors

**TASK: study the following items. They will be discussed in the listening activity on hemorrhage in gynecology.**

**Menorrhagia** is a heavy and prolonged menstrual period at regular intervals. Causes may be due to abnormal blood clotting, disruption of normal hormonal regulation of periods or disorders of the endometrial lining of the uterus. It may be associated with abnormally painful periods (dysmenorrhea).

**Dysmenorrhea** is a medical condition characterized by severe uterine pain during menstruation. While many individuals experience minor pain during menstruation, dysmenorrhea is diagnosed when the pain is so severe as to limit normal activities, or require medication. Dysmenorrhea may precede menstruation by several days or may accompany it, and it usually subsides as menstruation stops. Dysmenorrhea may coexist with excessively heavy blood loss, known as *menorrhagia*.

**Amenorrhoea** is the absence of a menstrual period in a woman of reproductive age. Physiological states of amenorrhoea are seen during pregnancy and lactation (breastfeeding), the latter also forming the basis of a form of contraception known as the lactational amenorrhoea method. Outside of the reproductive years there is absence of menses during childhood and after menopause.

**Metrorrhagia** refers to vaginal bleeding among premenopausal women that is not synchronized with their menstrual period. It is often referred to as *spotting*.

**Dyspareunia** is painful sexual intercourse, due to medical or psychological causes. The symptom is reported almost exclusively by women, although the problem can also occur in men. Dyspareunia is considered to be primarily a physical, rather than an emotional problem. Extreme forms, in which the woman's pelvic floor musculature contracts involuntarily, is termed vaginismus.

**Leukorrhoea** is a medical term that means a thick, white or yellow vaginal discharge. It is a natural defense mechanism the vagina uses to maintain its chemical balance, as well as to preserve the flexibility of the vaginal tissue. It may also result from inflammation or congestion of the vaginal mucosa. In cases where it is yellowish or gives off an odor, a doctor should be consulted since it could be a sign of a sexually transmitted disease.

## **Hypermenorrhoea**

Abnormally heavy menstruation; can be a symptom of uterine tumours and can lead to anaemia.