

GYNAECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS UPDATE

GP Issue 53

December, 2006

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**AWARD
2005**



The Significance of the presence of Endometrial Cells in a Cervical smear

- Endometrial cells are a **normal component of cervical smears up to the first 12 days of the menstrual cycle.**
- Endometrial cells of normal morphology in cervical smears **outside the first 12 days of the cycle** may be due to
 - * **Common causes: IUCD, oral contraceptive pill** (mid-cycle and often in association with break through bleeding) and postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy (**HRT**)
 - * **Abnormal endometrium (hyperplasia, premalignant or malignant conditions)**
- Management of normal endometrial cells shed at inappropriate times of the cycle
 - * may be **disregarded in women under 40 years** of age because neoplastic diseases of the endometrium are very rare in this age group.
 - * In women of **40 years and over.** The decision whether to refer the woman for further investigation is a **clinical one.**
 - * **Postmenopausal women, patients on tamoxifen or PCOS** patients with infrequent or no periods should be referred for assessment due to the associated risk of abnormal endometrium.
- Management of abnormal (dyskaryotic) endometrial cells
Patients should always be investigated regardless of the age of the woman. In most cases, reports will include a recommended course of action.

