Is removal of asymptomatic cervical polyps necessary?: histologic findings in asymptomatic Israeli Jewish women.

Goldshmid O, Schejter E, Kugler D, Menczer J.

Maccabi Health Service clinics, Tel Aviv, Israel.

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of the present study was to assess the frequency of abnormal histologic findings in polyps of asymptomatic Israeli Jewish women who are known to have a low incidence of cervical neoplasia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The medical records of Israeli Jewish women with histologically proven cervical polyps treated during 2005 to 2009 in 2 Maccabi Health Service clinics that specialize in cervical pathology and colposcopy were retrieved from a computerized database. The records of asymptomatic women who underwent polypectomy were reviewed, and demographic information, clinical information, and the presence of abnormal colposcopic patterns, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), and malignancy were abstracted.

RESULTS: The study included 228 asymptomatic women with cervical polyps who underwent colposcopy. Their median age was 49 ± 10.9 years (range = 21-82 y). The highest percentage of patients was observed in the 40- to 49-year-old age group, was Israeli-born, and was married. The percentage of patients referred because of an abnormal cytology report (29.4%) was considerably higher than the percentage reported in Israeli Jewish women. Abnormal colposcopy patterns were seen in 9 polyps, and CIN was found in 6 of them. Despite the high frequency of abnormal cytologic smears, CIN 3 was detected in only 1 polyp (0.4%). In none of the
polyps was malignancy found.

CONCLUSIONS: The very low frequency of neoplasia in cervical polyps of asymptomatic patients seems to support the notion that there is no clear indication for polypectomy when cytology is normal.

PMID: 21817919 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]