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Advances in vaginal microflora, immunity and bacterial vaginosis

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Vulvovaginal infection is the most common gynecologic problem encountered in the United States in primary care resulting in more than 10 million office visits per year. It has been reported that more than 23% of women of childbearing age are affected by bacterial vaginosis. What is the state of the art regarding the knowledge and treatment of this condition?

The microbial flora that colonize the vagina play an important role in maintaining vaginal health, preventing vaginal infections and averting intrauterine infections.

Different methods have been used to identify the vaginal microflora.

Recently the advent of qPCR has made that identification not only increasingly reliable, but also affordable. The prevalent microflora is dominated by lactobacillus; they contribute to the acidification of the vaginal milieu by producing lactic acid and hydrogen peroxide. We have acquired more information regarding the physiology and pathophysiology of this microflora.

Additionally we have made substantial progress in the understanding of vaginal immunity and now have additional understanding about why lactobacilli do not protect the vagina from fungal infections.

An alteration of the vaginal microflora with overpopulation of anaerobic bacteria and lactobacilli depletion is the ingredient to develop bacterial vaginosis. In recent times it was reported the formation of biofilm by those anaerobic bacterial population.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss these 3 new important findings. Furthermore, we would like to update the audience regarding the implications for prevention and management of vaginal infections including bacterial vaginosis and fungal infections.

Biography

Dr. Gary Ventolini graduated medical school from the university of padova in Italy. He completed Residency training in family practice and obstetrics & gynecology in the USA later becoming a fellow of both Organizations. He has been professor and chair of the obstetrics and gynecology department at Wright State university, Dayton, Ohio, .since his appointment in 2006. he has published over 60 papers in peer Reviewed journals and more than 10 manuscripts in journals as per editors requests. He has presented more than 50 abstracts at national and international meetings and has authored several book chapters, books and manuals.