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Uterine malformations (Müllerian duct anomalies) diagnosed by saline contrast sonohysterography: Prevalence in a general population

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Introduction: Uterine malformations (Müllerian duct anomalies) are associated with impaired fertility, miscarriage and premature birth. The prevalence in a general population has not been investigated previously.

Method: In this cross-sectional study, 622 women (aged 20-74 years) were recruited from a general population. Ultrasound with saline contrast sono-hysterography (SCSH) was performed. The shape of the uterus was dynamically evaluated and classified in accordance with American Fertility Society as normal, arcuate, septate (partial, complete), bicorn (partial, complete), or unicorn. History of previous miscarriage and menstrual cycle was obtained by a questionnaire.

Results: The overall prevalence of Müllerian anomalies was 9.8% (61 of 622) (95% confidence interval [CI] 7.5-12.1). The majority had arcuate uteri (n=42, 6.8%), 17 partial septate (2.7%), 1 complete septate (1.6%), and 1 unicorn uterus (1.6%). Müllerian anomalies were significantly more frequently diagnosed in nulliparous (20% [26 of 128]) compared with parous women (7% [35 of 494]). Müllerian anomalies were more frequent in women with oligo-menorrhea compared with women with normal menstrual periods (19% [15 of 79] vs. 10% [34 of 339]). One first-trimester miscarriage or multiple miscarriages (more than one) were not significantly more frequent in premenopausal women with Müllerian anomalies compared with women with normal-shaped uteri (24% [6 of 25] vs. 22% [57 of 265]). Both impaired fertility and a pregnancy-associated modulation of the uterine corpus are among explanations for the finding of more anomalies in nulliparous.

Conclusion: In this general population there was no association between miscarriage and Müllerian anomalies; however, the number of cases was limited.

Biography

Eva Dreisler is a Consultant at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Rigs Hospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital. She graduated from University of Copenhagen, Medical school in 1996. In 2008 she defended her PhD Thesis "Endometrial polyps: Prevalence, ultrasonographic aspects and associated factors". Her primary interests are ultrasound in gynecology and minimally invasive surgery, especially hysteroscopic surgery. She has contributed both with peer-reviewed papers on these topics and guidelines. She is Associate Editor for the journal "*Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation*" and a member of the Steering Committee for Danish Hysterectomy Database.

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