



Ovarian Aging: Premature Ovarian Failure

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Needs Assessment/Practice Gaps

Premature ovarian failure affects 1% of women of reproductive age. There are several etiologies that lead to ovarian failure and new data is being generated regarding genetic factors, including epigenetic alterations. It is important for the physician to evaluate the patient for potential causes, so that appropriate medical treatment can be instituted to prevent sequelae including heart disease, osteoporosis and failure of other endocrine organs. The diagnosis must be provided to the young woman in a sensitive manner.

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this session participants should be able to:

1. State the definition of premature ovarian failure
2. Classify potential etiologies, including genetic, autoimmune, iatrogenic, and others
3. Formulate a plan for complete testing of the patient, to include visualization of the ovaries, laboratory genetic testing, testing for autoimmune conditions and determination of other endocrine glandular function, assessment of bone density, and others
4. Implement appropriate medical therapy and protocol for continued monitoring of the patient
5. Outline for the patient, odds for spontaneous conception, and options available for building a family, including IVF with donor eggs