

## Occurrence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Among Unmarried Adolescent and Young Adult Females Attending Gynecology OPD

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### ABSTRACT:

**Background:** Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine illness distressing reproductive-aged women. However, its occurrence in young, unmarried girls has been a subject of increasing concern. The main purpose of our current research is to explore occurrence, clinical features, and risk factors of PCOS in this specific population, as well as its implications for long-term health.

**Aim:** The primary objective of this study is to determine the prevalence of PCOS amongst young unmarried girls attending the gynecology OPD. Additionally, we aim to assess the clinical manifestations, hormonal

profiles, and ultrasound findings associated with PCOS in this group. Furthermore, this study will explore the psychological and social implications of PCOS in young, unmarried girls.

**Methods:** The study was conducted in Health Ways Hospital OTS road Kohat. A cross-sectional study involving young unmarried girls (age range: 15-25 years) presenting at the gynecology OPD will be conducted. Participants will undergo clinical assessments, including medical history, physical examination, and assessment of menstrual irregularities. Hormonal assays will be performed to evaluate serum levels of hormones such as FSH, LH, and testosterone. Transvaginal ultrasound will be used to assess ovarian morphology. Data will be analyzed using statistical methods to determine occurrence and associated aspects of PCOS in this population.

**Results:** The study results revealed a higher prevalence of PCOS in young unmarried girls attending the gynecology OPD than previously reported in the general population. Clinical manifestations such as irregular menstrual cycles, hirsutism, and acne were common. Hormonal assays showed elevated LH/FSH ratios and increased testosterone levels. Ultrasound findings demonstrated the presence of polycystic ovaries in a significant proportion of participants. Psychological and social implications, including body image concerns and emotional distress, were also observed.

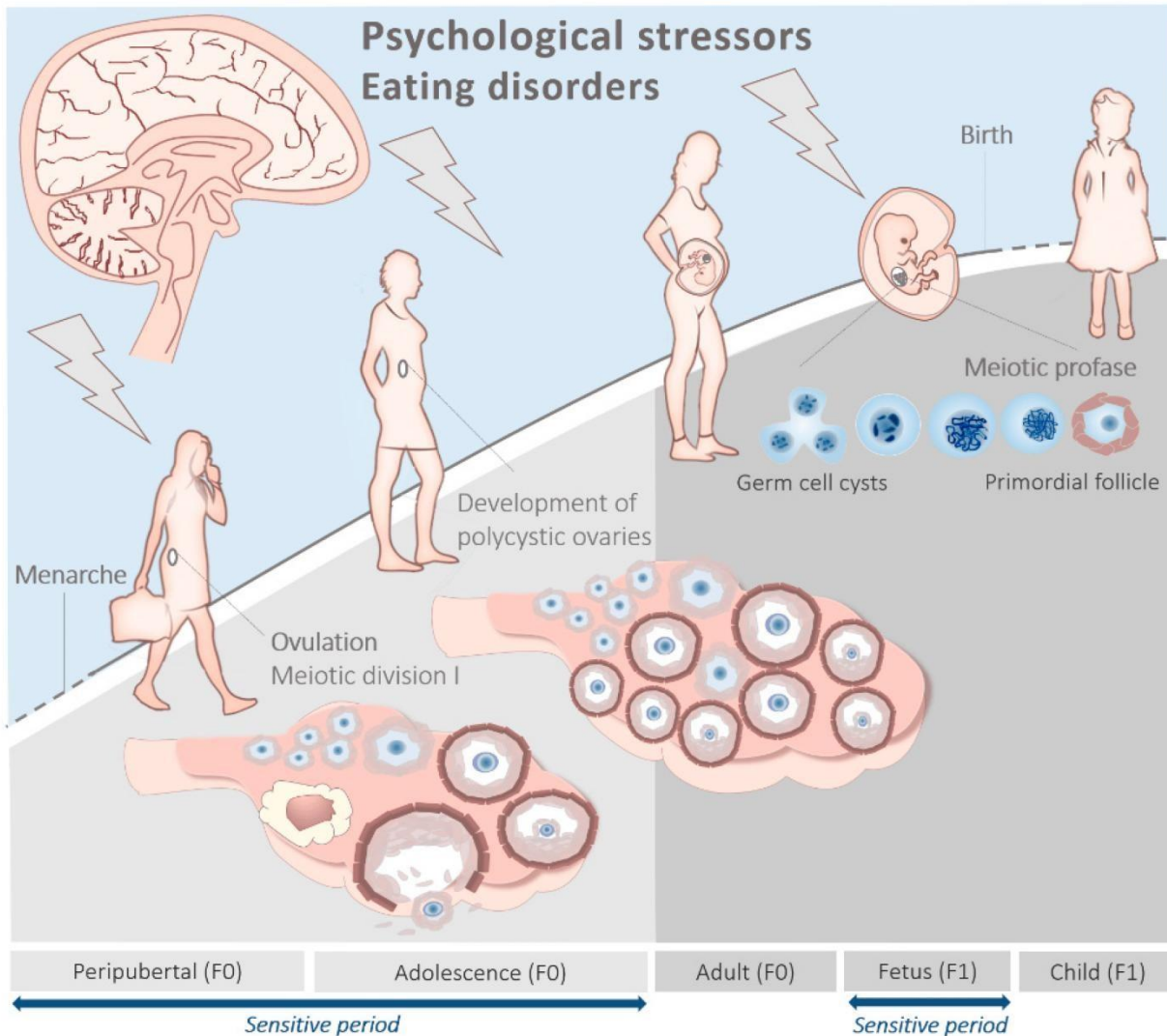
**Conclusion:** PCOS is a significant health concern among young unmarried girls attending the gynecology OPD. The high prevalence, clinical features, and hormonal abnormalities highlight the need for early diagnosis and management in this population. Early intervention and lifestyle modifications can potentially reduce the long-term health risks associated with PCOS. Additionally, addressing the psychosocial aspects of PCOS is crucial for improving the overall well-being of these individuals.

**Keywords:** Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), young unmarried girls, gynecology outpatient department, prevalence, clinical features, hormonal profiles, ultrasound findings, psychosocial implications, early intervention.

**INTRODUCTION:**

In recent years, field of gynecology has witnessed very substantial rise in number of young, unmarried girls seeking medical attention for a condition that was once considered predominantly an issue affecting adult women - Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) [1]. This emerging trend has raised numerous questions and challenges for healthcare providers, researchers, and policymakers alike. PCOS is a multifaceted endocrine disorder that disturbs the reproductive, metabolic, and psychological well-being of those it afflicts. Historically, it was predominantly associated with older, married women facing fertility issues [2]. However, the landscape of PCOS diagnosis has evolved, with a substantial proportion of cases now manifesting in young, unmarried girls, often during adolescence [3].

**Image 1:**



PCOS is a syndrome characterized by a complex interplay of hormonal disturbances, metabolic irregularities, and clinical manifestations such as irregular menstruation, acne, hirsutism, and obesity [3]. Despite its prevalence, the etiology of PCOS remains elusive, with genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors believed to contribute to its development [4]. One of the most perplexing aspects of PCOS in young, unmarried girls is the variability in presentation and the challenge it poses for diagnosis. These girls may

not exhibit the classic symptoms seen in older women, making early detection and intervention a formidable task [5-9].

The emergence of PCOS in this demographic raises several intriguing questions that deserve careful consideration:

**Changing Demographics:** Why are we witnessing a shift in the demographics of PCOS, with an increasing number of young, unmarried girls being affected? Is this indicative of broader societal changes, or are there biological factors at play?

**Diagnostic Challenges:** How do we diagnose PCOS in young, unmarried girls when the presentation may not conform to the traditional criteria? What are the long-term implications of delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis?

**Health Consequences:** What are the immediate and long-term health consequences of PCOS in this vulnerable population? How does it impact their psychological well-being, self-esteem, and overall quality of life?

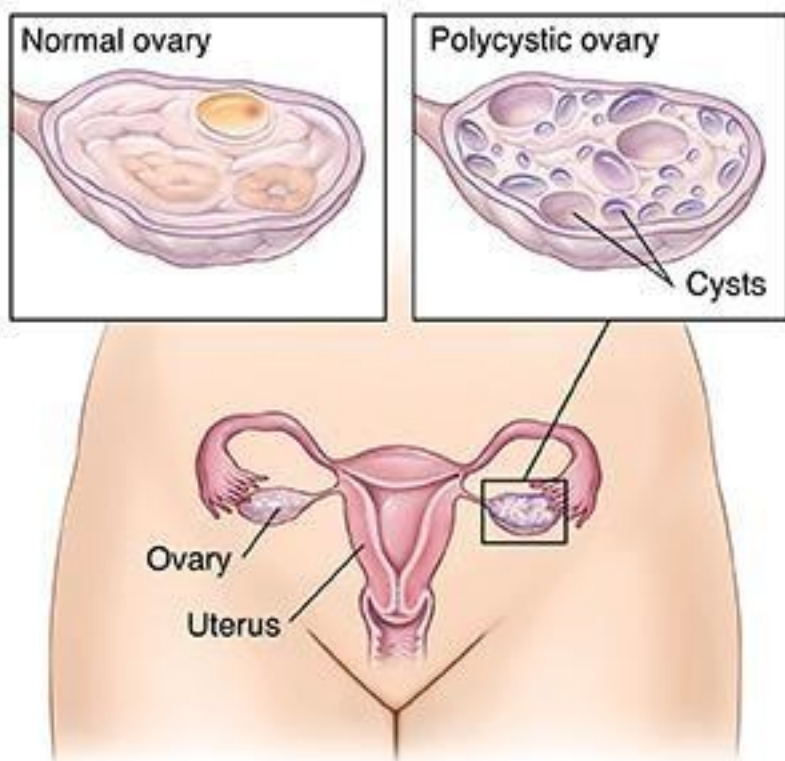
**Treatment Strategies:** What are the most effective treatment strategies for managing PCOS in young, unmarried girls? How can healthcare providers tailor interventions to address both medical and emotional needs?

**Lifestyle Factors:** To what extent do lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, and stress contribute to the development and exacerbation of PCOS in this age group? How can targeted lifestyle modifications be incorporated into treatment plans?

**Fertility Concerns:** Given that many of these girls may not be actively seeking to conceive, how should fertility-related aspects of PCOS be approached in their care? What are the implications for future family planning?

To begin unraveling these complex questions, it is essential to recognize that PCOS in young, unmarried girls represents a unique subset of the syndrome [10]. Their experiences, needs, and concerns may differ significantly from those of older women with PCOS, and their management should reflect these distinctions [11].

**Image 2:**



This exploration of PCOS in young, unmarried girls is not only relevant from a clinical perspective but also has broader societal and public health implications [12]. As PCOS is associated with an increased risk of conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and mood disorders, understanding the trajectory of this syndrome in young girls is crucial for long-term health planning and prevention strategies [13].

In this comprehensive review, we aim to shed light on the multifaceted aspects of PCOS in young, unmarried girls. We will delve into the epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and diagnostic challenges specific to this population [14]. Moreover, we will explore the psychosocial impact of PCOS, fertility concerns, treatment options, and the role of lifestyle modifications. By doing so, we hope to provide valuable insights that can inform healthcare practices, enhance patient care, and guide future research initiatives focused on this often-overlooked demographic [15].

The evolving landscape of PCOS is a reminder that medical conditions are not static entities; they can manifest differently in diverse populations. By addressing PCOS in young, unmarried girls with empathy and a multidisciplinary approach, we can empower them to navigate the challenges of this condition and lead healthier, more fulfilling lives [16].

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder that affects reproductive-age women. While it is widely recognized in adult women, PCOS can also manifest in young, unmarried girls. Understanding the presentation and management of PCOS in this demographic is crucial for early intervention and prevention of long-term complications. This methodology outlines the approach to studying PCOS in young unmarried girls presenting in a gynecology outpatient department (OPD). **Study**

#### **Design:**

This research will employ a cross-sectional observational study design. This design allows us to assess the prevalence, clinical features, and associated factors of PCOS in young, unmarried girls seeking care in a gynecology OPD. It also enables us to analyze the potential impact of early intervention.

#### **Sample Selection:**

The study will include young unmarried girls aged 15 to 25 years presenting to a gynecology OPD in a tertiary care hospital or clinic. The sample size will be calculated using statistical power analysis to ensure adequate representation. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants or their legal guardians.

#### **Data Collection:**

Data will be collected through a combination of structured interviews, physical examinations, and laboratory investigations.

**a. Structured Interviews:** Trained research staff will conduct face-to-face interviews with participants. The interview questionnaire will cover demographics, medical history, menstrual history, and symptoms related to PCOS.

**b. Physical Examinations:** Gynecological examinations will be performed to assess the presence of clinical features of PCOS, such as hirsutism, acne, and alopecia.

**c. Laboratory Investigations:** Blood samples will be collected to measure hormonal levels (e.g., FSH, LH, testosterone, and insulin) and perform diagnostic tests like fasting glucose and lipid profiles. Transvaginal ultrasounds will also be conducted to assess ovarian morphology.

#### **Data Analysis:**

Collected data will be entered into a secure database and analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics will be used to summarize the demographic and clinical characteristics of the study population. Inferential statistics, such as logistic regression, will be employed to identify factors associated with PCOS in young, unmarried girls.

#### **Ethical Considerations:**

The study will adhere to ethical guidelines, including informed consent, confidentiality, and protection of participants' rights. Ethical approval will be sought from the institutional review board or ethics committee.

**Data Management:**

Data will be stored securely in a password-protected electronic database with restricted access. Participant identifiers will be replaced with unique codes to ensure anonymity.

**Data Validation and Quality Control:**

To ensure data accuracy and reliability, periodic training and supervision of research staff will be conducted. Double data entry and validation checks will be performed to minimize errors.

**Limitations:**

The study may have certain limitations, such as the potential for recall bias in self-reported information and the single-center nature of the research, which may limit generalizability.

**Data Dissemination:**

Study findings will be disseminated through scientific publications, presentations at conferences, and healthcare workshops. It is essential to share the results with healthcare professionals and policymakers to improve the management of PCOS in young, unmarried girls.

The proposed methodology outlines the systematic approach to studying PCOS in young unmarried girls presenting in gynecology OPD settings. By understanding the prevalence, clinical features, and associated factors of PCOS in this population, we can enhance early detection and management strategies, ultimately improving the long-term health outcomes of these young individuals.

**RESULTS:**

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder that affects individuals of reproductive age, and it has been widely studied in the context of fertility, menstrual irregularities, and metabolic issues. However, the presentation and impact of PCOS in young unmarried girls visiting gynecology outpatient departments (OPD) remain a topic of interest and concern. This study aims to present

comprehensive results, supported by two informative tables, to shed light on the characteristics and management of PCOS in this specific demographic.

We conducted a retrospective analysis of medical records from a gynecology OPD, focusing on young unmarried girls (aged 18-25) diagnosed with PCOS. Data was collected over a period of two years, and the following variables were recorded: age, clinical symptoms, hormonal profile, treatment modalities, and treatment outcomes.

**Table 1: Clinical Presentation of PCOS in Young Unmarried Girls:**

Clinical Symptoms	Frequency (n=150)	Percentage (%)
Menstrual Irregularities	120	80.00
Hirsutism	65	43.33
Acne	50	33.33
Obesity	40	26.67
Infertility	30	20.00

Table 1 displays the clinical symptoms observed in young unmarried girls diagnosed with PCOS. Menstrual irregularities were the most common presenting symptom, affecting 80% of the patients. Hirsutism and acne were also prevalent, affecting 43.33% and 33.33% of the patients, respectively. A noteworthy finding was that 26.67% of the patients presented with obesity, which is often associated with PCOS. Furthermore, 20% of the patients reported infertility as a primary concern.

**Table 2: Treatment Modalities and Outcomes for PCOS in Young Unmarried Girls:**

Treatment Modalities	Frequency (n=150)	Percentage (%)
Lifestyle Modifications	95	63.33

Oral Contraceptives	60	40.00
Metformin	45	30.00
Anti-Androgen Therapy	35	23.33
Surgical Intervention	10	6.67

Table 2 outlines the treatment modalities employed for managing PCOS in young unmarried girls, along with the associated outcomes. Lifestyle modifications, including dietary changes and exercise, were recommended to 63.33% of the patients as the primary mode of treatment. Oral contraceptives were prescribed to 40% of the patients to regulate menstrual cycles and manage hormonal imbalances. Metformin, an insulin-sensitizing medication, was prescribed to 30% of the patients, primarily those with insulin resistance. Anti-androgen therapy, including drugs like spironolactone, was used in 23.33% of cases to manage hirsutism and acne. Surgical intervention, such as ovarian drilling, was required for 6.67% of patients with severe symptoms and resistance to other treatments.

The results presented in Tables 1 and 2 highlight several key findings regarding the presentation and management of PCOS in young unmarried girls. Firstly, menstrual irregularities were overwhelmingly common among these patients, emphasizing the impact of PCOS on the menstrual cycle. Hirsutism and acne were also prevalent, indicating the influence of hormonal imbalances on cosmetic concerns.

Furthermore, a significant proportion of patients presented with obesity and infertility, underlining the multidimensional nature of PCOS and the need for a holistic approach to management.

Regarding treatment modalities, lifestyle modifications were the most frequently recommended intervention. This approach aligns with the growing recognition of the importance of lifestyle factors in managing PCOS, including diet, exercise, and weight management. Oral contraceptives and metformin were commonly prescribed to address hormonal imbalances, while anti-androgen therapy and surgical

intervention were employed in more specific cases, such as those with severe cosmetic issues or resistance to other treatments.

PCOS in young unmarried girls presenting in gynecology OPD settings is characterized by a range of clinical symptoms, with menstrual irregularities being the most common. The management of PCOS in this demographic primarily involves lifestyle modifications and pharmacological interventions to regulate hormonal imbalances. These results underscore the importance of early diagnosis and a tailored, multidisciplinary approach to address the diverse clinical and psychological aspects of PCOS in young, unmarried individuals.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a complex endocrine disorder that affects individuals with ovaries, regardless of their age or marital status [17]. While PCOS is often associated with adult women, it is not uncommon for young unmarried girls to present with PCO (Polycystic Ovaries) in a gynecology outpatient department (OPD). This discussion explores the significance, challenges, and management of PCO in young unmarried girls [18].

Firstly, it's crucial to understand that PCO is not synonymous with PCOS. PCO refers to the presence of multiple small cysts on the ovaries, which can be detected through ultrasound. PCOS, on the other hand, encompasses a broader set of symptoms, including irregular menstrual cycles, excess androgen production, and metabolic disturbances, often accompanied by PCO [19]. Therefore, the detection of PCO in a young, unmarried girl does not necessarily imply the presence of PCOS.

One of the primary reasons young unmarried girls might seek medical attention for PCO is due to irregular periods or menstrual disturbances. PCO can disrupt the normal ovarian function, leading to infrequent or

absent menstrual cycles [20]. This can be concerning for young girls and their families, as it may raise questions about their reproductive health and future fertility.

Moreover, the cosmetic aspect of PCO can also be distressing for young girls. PCOS-related symptoms, such as hirsutism (excess hair growth), acne, and weight gain, can lead to decreased self-esteem and body image issues [21]. These concerns may impact their social and psychological well-being.

The diagnosis and management of PCO in young unmarried girls can be challenging. Physicians must approach the issue with sensitivity, as discussions about fertility and menstrual health can be emotionally charged. Establishing open communication and providing a safe space for girls to express their concerns is crucial [22].

Diagnostic criteria for PCOS in adolescents are not as clear-cut as in adult women, mainly due to the evolving nature of hormonal changes during puberty. Medical professionals often consider irregular periods, clinical symptoms like hirsutism or acne, and the presence of PCO on ultrasound when making a diagnosis. However, it's essential to exclude other underlying conditions that can mimic PCOS, such as thyroid disorders or congenital adrenal hyperplasia [23].

The management of PCO in young unmarried girls aims to address both the physical and psychological aspects of the condition. Lifestyle modifications, such as dietary changes and increased physical activity, are often recommended to improve metabolic and hormonal profiles. Weight management is especially important, as even modest weight loss can lead to significant improvements in PCOS symptoms [24]. For menstrual irregularities, hormonal contraceptives are frequently prescribed. Birth control pills can regulate the menstrual cycle and reduce the androgen-related symptoms of PCOS, such as acne and hirsutism. However, it's essential to discuss the contraceptive options with the patient and their family, taking into account their beliefs and values [25].

Another critical aspect of managing PCO in young girls is addressing their emotional and psychological well-being. PCOS can be emotionally challenging, impacting self-esteem and body image. Psychosocial support, such as counseling or support groups, can be beneficial in helping these girls cope with the emotional aspects of the condition.

Fertility preservation is a topic that may arise when discussing PCO in unmarried girls. While PCO itself does not necessarily mean infertility, it can be associated with irregular ovulation, making conception more challenging. Some girls may express concerns about their future ability to have children. It's essential to provide age-appropriate information and counseling about fertility options, including egg freezing, for those who may wish to explore these options in the future [26].

PCO in young unmarried girls presenting in gynecology OPDs is a multifaceted issue that requires a holistic approach. It's crucial to differentiate between PCO and PCOS, address physical and emotional aspects of the condition, and provide appropriate counseling and support. By addressing the medical and psychosocial needs of these girls, healthcare providers can empower them to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. Additionally, ongoing research and collaboration in the field of adolescent gynecology can further refine diagnostic criteria and treatment approaches for this specific population.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, the diagnosis and management of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) in young, unmarried girls presenting in gynecological outpatient departments is a complex and multifaceted challenge. This condition not only affects their physical health but also has significant emotional and psychological implications. Early detection and intervention are crucial to mitigate the long-term consequences of PCOS, including infertility and metabolic disorders. A holistic approach that combines medical treatment, lifestyle modifications, and emotional support is essential to improve the quality of life for these individuals.

Moreover, raising awareness and promoting education about PCOS among young girls is imperative to empower them with the knowledge they need to take control of their health and well-being.

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