

9. Dehydration: rinse the smear in 3 rinses absolute ethyl alcohol and for each rinse 10 dips.

10. Clearing: rinse the smear in 3 rinses xylene and for each rinse 10 dips.

Statistical analysis: Statistical analysis was done using student t-test. P value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The statistical significance of association between two categorical variables was assessed by chi-square test.

Results

The total number of pap smears was 360; 317 were adequate and 43 smears were inadequate for evaluation.

Clinical data of the total study sample:

The age range was (15-75 years) with a mean age of (37.98 years \pm 10.97). The chief complaints of the patients were vaginal discharge, postcoital bleeding, intermenstrual bleeding, postmenopausal bleeding, vaginal and perianal warts (Table 1).

Table 1. The classification of patients according to the clinical symptoms

Signs and symptoms	No.	%
Vaginal discharge	229	63.61
Postcoital bleeding	38	10.55
Intermenstrual bleeding	76	21.12
Postmenopausal bleeding	9	2.5
Vaginal & perianal warts	8	2.22
Total	360	100

Cytological cervical smear results of (360 cases) were categorized according to The Bethesda System (TBS) 2001 into the following ⁽¹⁰⁾: 317 cases (88%) were satisfactory for evaluation (presence of endocervical/ transformation zone components with adequate squamous cellularity), 43 cases (12%) were unsatisfactory for evaluation (absence of endocervical / transformation zone components, autolysis, obscuring blood, obscuring inflammation and small amount of material). Two hundred and forty six cases (68.3%) had negative cervical

smears for intraepithelial neoplasia (TBS 2001). Seventy one cases (19.72%) had abnormal cervical smears (AS), smears with intraepithelial lesions. In which:

a. Minimal cervical smear abnormalities. (ASC-US, ASC-H, AGC, LSIL) This category includes (53) cases (74.64% of AS: abnormal smears, 14.72% of studied group).

b. HSIL. (CIN- II, CIN-III, and carcinoma in situ). This category includes (18) cases (25.36% of AS, 5% of studied group).

LSIL, as a single entity, was the most common cytological abnormality 28 cases (39.43% of AS, 7.7% of studied group). ASC includes 14 cases (19.71% of AS, 3.88% of studied group); which is subdivided into: ASC-H includes 8 cases (11.26% of AS, 2.22% of studied group); ASC-US includes 6 cases (8.45% of AS, 1.6% of studied group). AGC includes 11 cases (15.5% of AS, 3.05% of studied group as demonstrated in table 2.

Table 2. The outlines of cytological examination of the Total study group

Cytology	No.	Group (%)	
		studied N = 360	AS N = 71
-ve cervical smear	246	68.3	
Inadequate	43	11.95	
ASC- US	6	1.7	8.45
ASC-H	8	2.2	11.26
LSIL	28	7.8	39.43
HSIL	18	5.0	25.36
AGC	11	3.05	15.5
Total	360	100	100

The mean age at the time of examination for patients with abnormal cervical smears was (39.91 \pm 11.5 years). The mean age for patients with HSIL was (45.94 \pm 12.3 years) which is higher than that for patients with minimal cervical smear abnormalities (36.88 \pm 10.46 years). Also, the mean age for patients with LSIL (38.21 \pm 14.3 years) was higher than that for patients with AGC (34.9 years \pm 9.72) or ASC