

Table 5: The prevalence of some characteristics of women with dysplasia (shown by pap smear)*

Characteristics	Prevalence %(no.)
Housewife	85.7 (6)
Illiterate	14.3 (1)
Not using sanitary pads	100 (7)
Indoor underwear drying	71.4 (5)
Not washing after intercourse	28.6 (2)
Genital warts	28.6 (2)
Prior lower G.T.I. (for the last year)	85.7 (6)
Using Contraceptive pills	40 (2)
Using IUCD	20 (1)

* number of cases=7

Discussion

The percentage of total different pathological changes revealed by pap smear was higher than in other study^[9], this may be due to differences; in population's characteristics, smear taking and other technical factors. but regarding the type of pathological changes the prevalence of *Trichomonus vaginalis* infection was lower than in other studies^[9,10] and The percentage of non-specific cervicitis was lower than in other studies too^[11,12] and was more common among younger age groups^[11] which may be related to socioeconomic, reproductive and behavioral differences.

On the other hand the percentage of HPV infection was in agreement with that of Hassan^[9]. Squamous dysplasia was mainly prevalent in cervical smears of women aged from 30-39 years which was in agreement with other studies^[13,14]. It has been found that inflammatory changes (cervicitis) are important in the pathogenesis of pre-malignant lesions^[15,16] and they are related to sexually transmitted infections^[17] and in 40-47% of them, microbiological tests proved to have specific infections^[5,18,19].

The mean age at marriage and at first live birth among women with non-specific cervicitis were significantly lower than those without such pathology which was in agreement with other studies^[10,20], these changes were more common among women with lower educational level because they were adopting unhygienic genital and sexual

practices^[11] and the percentage of those lesions was significantly lower among women using proper genital and sexual hygienic practices. The percentage of non-specific cervicitis was significantly higher among women who had history of previous lower genital tract infection, history of abortion and curettage which was in agreement with other study^[10].

The mean age of women with HPV in this study were approximately similar to that found by other study in Iraq^[8], but higher than in other European studies^[21], this is probably due to early sexual practicing habits and multiple partners leading to a higher chance of harboring the virus in European women.

The prevalence of HPV findings on pap smear was within the range found by other studies which lies between <1% and 3%. The percentage of Squamous dysplastic changes (CIN) that were found in cervical smears of women with HPV infection was similar to that reported by other studies^[8]. Women who had dysplastic epithelial changes in cervical smear were below 39 years old which was in agreement with other studies^[13,14] while other studies in United States reported the peak age of first coitus with multiple sexual partners which may be surrogate markers of sexually transmitted infectious pathogens involved in cervical neoplasia.

The mean gravidity and parity of women with CIN were similar to that in other studies^[10,13]. Generally those women with