Confidentiality is Critical for Teen Gyn. Care

BY DEEANNA FRANKLIN
Senior Writer

BOSTON — A few adjustments might be needed to make your practice approachable and comfortable for adolescent patients, but the long-term payoffs can be worth it.

"Why is it some people aren’t so comfortable taking care of adolescents? They think they take more time in the office," Marc Laufer, M.D., said at an ob.gyn. meeting cosponsored by Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Laufer said poly- cystic ovary syndrome were diagnosed and treated during adolescence, there would be a greater chance of decreasing rates of obesity and diabetes. The advances hold for endometriosis. An early diagnosis likely would result in less pelvic pain over the patient’s lifetime and lead to improved long-term fertility. Since most adolescents are "Internet savvy," Dr. Laufer encouraged physicians to direct young patients to online resources such as the Web site by the Center for Young Women’s Health at Children’s Hospital Boston (www.youngwomenshhealth.org). The site offers education information in English and Spanish and an online chat room where teens can ask questions and get answers from health professionals.

The NASPAG’s Web site (www.naspag.org) also offers information for teens and physicians and includes links to other adolescent care Web sites.

FDA Warns About Imported Test Kits

The Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers about possible false results from several unapproved home-use diagnostic test kits marketed in the United States via the Internet by Globus Media of Montreal. The test kits are not approved for sale in the United States. There is concern that the use of these products could lead to false results that could contribute to significant adverse health consequences, but there are no confirmed instances of false results, according to the FDA.

The kits are labeled as Rapid HIV Test Kit, Rapid Syphilis Test Kit, One Step Cassette Style HCG Urine (Home) Pregnancy Test, and One Step Midstream Style HCG Urine (Home) Pregnancy Test. The tests, sold through Web sites such as www.bhk.com, have been distributed nationwide. The name of the kit appears on the instructions, but the envelope, instructions, and packaging may not accurately identify the manufacturer, packer, or distributor. Anyone who has used one of these products should be tested using valid test methods.

No home-use test kits intended for diagnosing HIV, syphilis, and dengue fever are approved by the FDA. There are no confirmed instances of false results from several unapproved home-use diagnostic test kits marketed in the United States via the Internet by Globus Media of Montreal. The kits are not approved for sale in the United States. There is concern that the use of these products could lead to false results that could contribute to significant adverse health consequences, but there are no confirmed instances of false results, according to the FDA.

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