More Research Is Needed on Aromatase Inhibitors in PCOS

**BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER**

**New York Bureau**

**PHILADELPHIA** — The jury is still out on whether aromatase inhibitors could offer an alternative to clomiphene for the treatment of infertility associated with polycystic ovary syndrome, based on results in two small clinical trials.

Aromatase inhibitors are on the horizon, Dr. Andrea D. Coviello said at Endocrinology, Diabetes and Women’s Health Updates in Chicago.

There are significant concerns about fetal development problems in babies conceived by women who were using aromatase inhibitors.

In a study of 43 women with chronic pelvic pain, researchers at the University of North Carolina found that treatment with lamotrigine resulted in significant reductions in total pain, overall pain intensity, and depressive symptoms at 8 weeks, compared with baseline.

They were significantly greater in those measures at 12 weeks that achieved significance.

The study, which was presented as a poster at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society, was funded by GlaxoSmithKline Inc., maker of Lamictal (lamotrigine).

**Baltimore** — The anticonvulsant lamotrigine shows promise for reducing pain and improving mood symptoms associated with chronic pelvic pain, particularly in women with the vulvovaginal subtype.

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**Dr. Samantha Meltzer-Brody of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Loyola University Chicago, and her colleagues conducted a chart review of all new urogynecology patients seen from March to December 2004.**

Scores from the Urogenital Distress Inventory (UDI) and Medical, Epidemiological, and Social Aspects of Aging (MESA) incontinence questionnaires were used. Urine cultures had been obtained by catheterization.

Significant infection was considered to be present if at least 10,000 colonies of uropathogens were present.

Of the 530 patients, 62 (12%) had positive cultures, Dr. Fitzgerald reported in a poster session at the annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons.

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** — Urinary incontinence symptoms do not appear to be more prevalent or more severe in women with bacteriuria, based on a study of 530 urogynecology patients seen at one institution.

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**Dr. Mathew reported on 1,624 women aged 20-70 years who were enrolled in the International Long QT Syndrome Registry, including 560 who were postmenopausal.**

The risk of the combined end point of syncope, LQTS-related sudden death, or aborted cardiac arrest was 94% lower in the postmenopausal group.

The impact of menopause was particularly striking in women with the LQT2 genotype. Their combined annual event rate was 11.86/year before menopause and 1.91/year after menopause.

Among women with a QTc interval of 500 msec or more, the event rate was 8.21/year before menopause and 2.35/year afterward.

And among women with a history of syncope before age 20, the event rate was 8.21/year prior to menopause, compared with 2.26/year postmenopause.

The genesis for this study examining the influence of menopause on cardiac events in LQTS was prior work establishing that females have a substantially higher cardiac event rate than males with LQTS and that women with LQTS have a higher event rate during the first 9 months post partum—a period of hormonal flux—than they do during pregnancy.