

CLINICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OVARIAN
CYSTS IN WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

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Abstract. *Ovarian cysts are among the most common gynecological conditions in women of reproductive age and represent a significant clinical concern due to their diverse etiology and potential complications. These cystic formations may vary in size, structure, and pathological significance, ranging from functional cysts to complex neoplastic lesions.*

This study aims to evaluate the clinical and morphological characteristics of ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age. A descriptive observational study was conducted involving patients diagnosed with ovarian cysts based on clinical examination and imaging techniques. Ultrasound was used as the primary diagnostic method, and morphological assessment was performed through histopathological analysis in selected cases.

The findings revealed that functional cysts were the most common type, followed by hemorrhagic cysts and endometriotic cysts. Morphological evaluation demonstrated differences in cyst wall structure, internal content, and vascular patterns. Clinical symptoms varied from asymptomatic cases to pelvic pain and menstrual irregularities.

In conclusion, ovarian cysts exhibit a wide range of clinical and morphological features that are essential for accurate diagnosis and management. Combined clinical, imaging, and histopathological evaluation plays a key role in distinguishing benign from potentially malignant lesions and guiding appropriate treatment strategies.

Keywords. *Ovarian cysts, ovary, morphology, ultrasound, reproductive age, gynecology, ovarian pathology*

Introduction

Ovarian cysts are fluid-filled sacs that develop within or on the surface of the ovaries and are commonly encountered in women of reproductive age. These cysts may arise as part of normal ovarian function or as a result of pathological processes. While many ovarian cysts are benign and asymptomatic, some may lead to significant clinical symptoms or complications, requiring careful evaluation and management [1].

The etiology of ovarian cysts is diverse and includes functional, inflammatory, and neoplastic causes. Functional cysts, such as follicular and corpus luteum cysts, are the most common and are usually associated with normal ovulatory cycles. In contrast, pathological cysts, including endometriotic and dermoid cysts, may arise from abnormal tissue growth and are often associated with chronic conditions or hormonal disturbances [2].

Morphologically, ovarian cysts exhibit a wide range of structural characteristics depending on their origin. Functional cysts typically have thin walls and clear fluid content, whereas

pathological cysts may present with thickened walls, internal septations, or solid components. Histopathological evaluation is essential for distinguishing benign lesions from those with malignant potential [3].

Clinically, ovarian cysts may present with pelvic pain, menstrual irregularities, or may remain asymptomatic and be detected incidentally during routine examinations. The size and type of cyst play a crucial role in determining clinical presentation and risk of complications such as torsion or rupture [4].

Ultrasound examination, particularly transvaginal ultrasound, is the primary diagnostic tool for evaluating ovarian cysts. It allows assessment of cyst size, structure, and internal characteristics, aiding in the differentiation between functional and pathological cysts. In certain cases, additional diagnostic methods and histological confirmation are required for accurate diagnosis [5].

Despite the high prevalence of ovarian cysts, comprehensive studies integrating both clinical and morphological features remain essential for improving diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes.

Therefore, the aim of this study is to evaluate the clinical and morphological characteristics of ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age, with particular emphasis on their structural features and clinical presentation.

Materials and Methods

This study was designed as a descriptive observational investigation aimed at evaluating the clinical and morphological characteristics of ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age. A total of 68 female patients aged between 18 and 45 years were included in the study. All participants were diagnosed with ovarian cysts based on clinical examination and imaging findings.

Patients were selected according to defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria consisted of women of reproductive age with confirmed ovarian cysts detected by ultrasound examination. Exclusion criteria included pregnancy, previously diagnosed malignant ovarian tumors, and a history of ovarian surgical interventions.

Clinical evaluation involved a detailed medical history, assessment of menstrual cycle patterns, and documentation of presenting symptoms such as pelvic pain, dysmenorrhea, and irregular menstruation. Each patient underwent a comprehensive gynecological examination.

Transvaginal ultrasound was used as the primary diagnostic method to evaluate cyst characteristics. The parameters assessed included cyst size, wall thickness, internal structure, and the presence of septations or solid components. Based on these features, cysts were categorized into functional and pathological types.

In cases requiring surgical management, cystic tissue samples were obtained and subjected to histopathological examination. The specimens were fixed, processed, and stained for microscopic analysis to evaluate structural features and confirm diagnosis.

Morphological assessment focused on key characteristics, including:

- the structure of the cyst wall

- the nature of internal contents (clear, hemorrhagic, or complex)
- the presence of septations or solid elements
- signs of inflammation or endometriotic changes

Table 1. Clinical and Morphological Parameters of Ovarian Cysts

Parameter	Method of Assessment	Clinical Significance
Cyst size (cm)	Ultrasound measurement	Indicates risk of complications
Wall thickness	Imaging evaluation	Differentiates simple and complex
Internal structure	Ultrasound analysis	Helps classify cyst type
Histological features	Microscopic examination	Confirms morphological diagnosis

Note. Parameters are based on standard clinical and diagnostic approaches.

All collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods. Quantitative variables were expressed as mean values with standard deviation, while qualitative data were presented in percentages.

Results

The analysis of clinical and imaging data demonstrated that ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age present with a wide range of characteristics in both structure and clinical manifestation. Among the 68 patients included in the study, the most common clinical symptom was pelvic pain, observed in 44% of cases. Menstrual irregularities were reported in 31% of patients, while 25% of cases were asymptomatic and detected during routine examination.

Ultrasound evaluation revealed that functional cysts were the most frequently observed type, accounting for 47% of cases. Hemorrhagic cysts were identified in 28% of patients, while endometriotic cysts constituted 15%. Complex cysts with internal septations or solid components were found in 10% of cases.

Table 2. Distribution of Ovarian Cyst Types (n = 68)

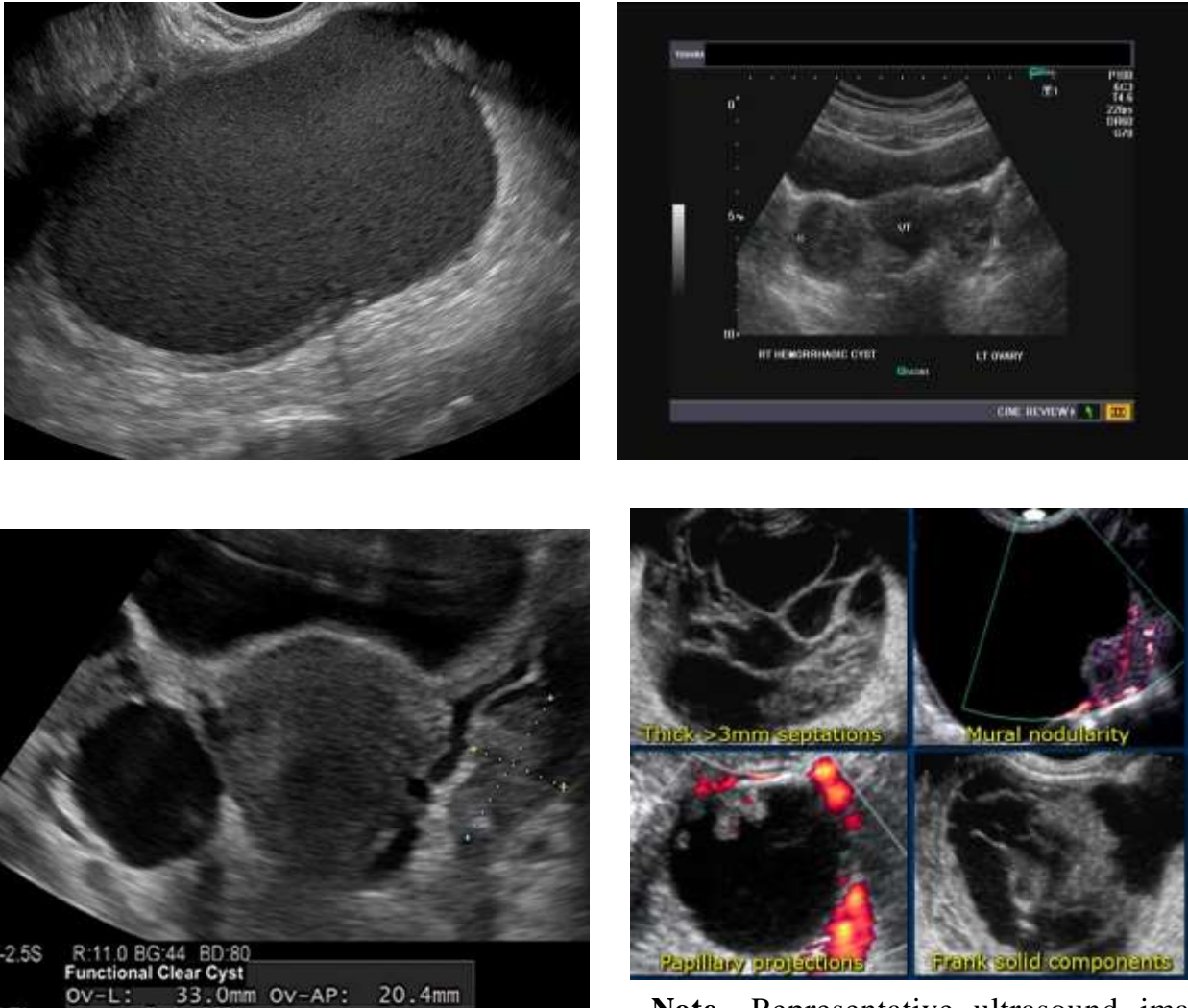
Type of Cyst	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Functional cysts	32	47%
Hemorrhagic cysts	19	28%
Endometriotic cysts	10	15%
Complex cysts	7	10%

Note. Classification based on imaging and morphological features observed during the study.

Further analysis showed that cyst size varied between 3 cm and 9 cm, with larger cysts more frequently associated with clinical symptoms. Thin-walled cysts with clear content were typically asymptomatic, whereas cysts with thick walls or complex internal structures were more often associated with pain and menstrual disturbances.

Histopathological examination, performed in selected surgical cases, confirmed the presence of structural differences between cyst types. Functional cysts showed simple architecture, while endometriotic cysts demonstrated characteristic hemorrhagic content and altered tissue structure. Complex cysts exhibited mixed features, including septations and cellular changes.

Figure 1. Ultrasound Features of Ovarian Cysts



Note. Representative ultrasound images illustrating different structural types of ovarian cysts.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age present with diverse clinical and morphological characteristics. The predominance of functional cysts observed in this study reflects their strong association with normal ovarian physiology and hormonal fluctuations. These cysts are typically transient and often resolve spontaneously, which explains the high proportion of asymptomatic cases identified during routine examinations.

The presence of hemorrhagic and endometriotic cysts indicates a more complex pathological process. Hemorrhagic cysts are usually associated with bleeding within a

functional cyst, leading to internal echoes and structural changes visible on ultrasound. In contrast, endometriotic cysts are related to ectopic endometrial tissue and are commonly associated with chronic pelvic pain and menstrual disturbances. The findings of this study confirm that these cyst types are more likely to present with clinical symptoms compared to simple functional cysts.

The relationship between cyst size and symptom severity observed in this study is clinically significant. Larger cysts were more frequently associated with pelvic pain and menstrual irregularities, likely due to increased pressure on surrounding tissues and potential disruption of ovarian function. Additionally, cysts with complex internal structures, such as septations or solid components, were more likely to be symptomatic and require further diagnostic evaluation.

Histopathological findings provided additional insight into the structural differences between cyst types. Functional cysts exhibited simple architecture, whereas pathological cysts showed more complex morphological features. These differences are important for distinguishing benign conditions from those that may require closer monitoring or surgical intervention.

From a clinical perspective, ultrasound remains a key diagnostic tool for the initial evaluation of ovarian cysts. It allows non-invasive assessment of cyst morphology and helps guide clinical decision-making. However, imaging alone may not always be sufficient, particularly in cases of complex cysts, where histopathological confirmation becomes necessary.

Despite the strengths of this study, certain limitations should be acknowledged. The sample size, although adequate for descriptive analysis, may limit broader generalization. In addition, not all cases underwent histopathological evaluation, which may affect the accuracy of morphological classification in some instances. Future studies with larger sample sizes and comprehensive diagnostic approaches are recommended to further clarify the clinical significance of different cyst types.

In conclusion, ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age exhibit a wide spectrum of clinical and morphological features. Understanding these variations is essential for accurate diagnosis, appropriate management, and prevention of potential complications.

Conclusion

In conclusion, ovarian cysts in women of reproductive age demonstrate a wide range of clinical and morphological characteristics. Functional cysts were the most frequently observed type and were often asymptomatic, while hemorrhagic, endometriotic, and complex cysts were more commonly associated with clinical symptoms such as pelvic pain and menstrual irregularities.

The study highlights the importance of comprehensive clinical evaluation combined with imaging techniques for accurate diagnosis. Ultrasound examination plays a key role in identifying cyst structure and guiding initial management decisions, while histopathological assessment remains essential in selected cases to confirm the diagnosis.

Early identification and appropriate classification of ovarian cysts are crucial for preventing complications and ensuring optimal patient management. A multidisciplinary approach integrating clinical, imaging, and morphological findings is essential for improving diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes.

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