



Causes of Abnormal Uterine Bleeding by Age

Cause	Diagnostic Clues
Menarche to teenage years	
Pregnancy	Irregular or absent periods
Anovulation	Cycle length falls outside normal range or varies by 10 days or more
Stress	Physical or mental
Bleeding disorders	Associated with other sources of bleeding (gums, nose)
Infection (cervical or vaginal)	Postcoital bleeding and/or vaginal discharge
Teens to 40s	
Pregnancy	Irregular or absent periods
Malignancy (uterine, cervical, vaginal, or vulvar)	Postcoital bleeding and/or vaginal discharge
Infection (cervical or vaginal)	Postcoital bleeding
Cervical polyps, endometrial polyps	Dysmenorrhea
Adenomyosis, fibroids	Dysmenorrhea
Anovulation	Irregular periods
Bleeding disorders	Associated with other sources of bleeding (gums, nose)
Endocrine abnormalities	Signs of hypothyroidism, diabetes, hyperprolactinemia, polycystic ovary syndrome
Ovarian or adrenal tumor	New-onset virilization or hirsutism
Perimenopausal	
Anovulation	Irregular periods
Endometrial hyperplasia and polyps; fibroids;	Dysmenorrhea
Malignancy (uterine, cervical, vaginal, or vulvar)	Postcoital bleeding and/or vaginal discharge
Postmenopausal	
Malignancy (uterine, cervical, vaginal, or vulvar)	Postcoital bleeding and/or vaginal discharge
Atrophy of vaginal mucosa Estrogen replacement therapy	Vaginal dryness, dyspareunia

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