

Vaginal biocoenosis examining comparing to exfoliative cervical cytology

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: At present, the gynaecologists have been increasingly frequently switching from vaginal biocoenosis assessment towards cervical cytology results to obtain information on the type of infection. Exfoliative cervical cytology is a screening test for dysplastic intraepithelial lesions and ectocervical cancers. One should emphasize however that one of the four parts of the new Bethesda classification specifies such inflammatory lesions as: *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Candida*, *Actinomyces*, *Chlamydia*, cellular changes consistent with HSV infection and changes of bacterial flora. The gynaecologists however may perform vaginal biocoenosis assessment individually and diagnose its abnormalities in a relatively short timeframe.

Purpose: To analyse the association between lesions revealed during vaginal biocoenosis assessment in correlation to lesions described in the studies dedicated to cytological assessment of ectocervical smear.

Material and methods: The study group included 1991 female patients scheduled for the follow-up

cytological screening in a gynaecological office. Patients underwent gynaecological examination covering external areas, colposcopy, vaginal pH measurement, sampling for vaginal biocoenosis assessment purposes and cytological sampling.

Results: It was demonstrated that diagnostic conformity for *Candida sp* accounted for only 17.2%, changes of bacterial flora for only 4% and – in the case of *Trichomonas vaginalis* – for only 3.9%. According to observations, bacterial infections and candidiases have been more frequently diagnosed during vaginal biocoenosis examining comparing to cytological screening, whereas infections with *Trichomonas vaginalis* have been more frequently diagnosed in cytological screening.

Conclusions: Lack of 100% correlation between the vaginal biocoenosis test and cytological result according to the Bethesda system means that assessment of vaginal microflora in phase-contrast microscopy should not be abandoned.

Keywords: Bacterial infections, *Candida sp*, cervical cytology, *Trichomonas vaginalis*, vaginal biocoenosis
