

The role of topic vaginal products as part of the therapeutic strategy in uterine cervix lesions

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ABSTRACT

It has been widely demonstrated so far that lactobacilli represent probably the most important microorganisms which are developed at the level of the vaginal cavity and which are responsible for the maintenance of an adequate environment and pH at this level. Once the number of these microorganisms decrease the pH value increase leading to the apparition of a basic medium, which favours the development of certain microorganisms such as human papilloma virus. Meanwhile it is widely known that the presence of this virus is associated with an increased risk of developing premalignant and even malignant conditions. The aim of the current paper is to investigate the correlation between the vaginal pH, the risk of human papilloma virus infection and, in the meantime, to explore the possible benefits of local application of Cerviron, a topic, vaginal product which seems to significantly influence the risk of cervical lesions development.

Keywords: Lactobacillus, human papilloma virus, Cerviron, uterine cervix lesions

INTRODUCTION

Vaginal microbiota is characterised by the presence of a significant number of microorganisms which seem to play a central role in order to maintain an acid environment at this level; therefore, maybe the most important microorganisms which are present at this level in physiological conditions are represented by lactobacilli. These microorganisms play a crucial role in the

metabolism of glycogen and it's transformation in lactic acid; it has been widely demonstrated that this chemical process is strongly influenced by the levels of oestrogens and takes place in the conditions of an anaerobic medium (1,2). In this respect, whenever the oestrogen levels are modified this process is secondarily affected and the levels of lactic acid decrease; the first logical effect in such cases is the modification of

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the vaginal medium which becomes from an acid one a basic one. In these conditions, other pathological microorganisms (which, in normal conditions would be destroyed by the acid medium) will develop at the level of the vaginal cavity and will conduct to the apparition of various pathological conditions. Although the most commonly encountered such microorganisms are represented by bacteria and fungi and lead to the apparition of bacterial vaginosis or fungal vaginosis, in certain cases viral infections might develop, the most commonly encountered such pathogenic agents being represented by human papilloma virus, human immunodeficiency virus and herpes simplex virus (3).

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL MODIFICATIONS OF VAGINAL FLORA AND THE RISK OF GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned before vaginal flora is comprised mainly by lactobacilli which have a protective effect on the risk of local development of different pathological conditions; however, once the number of these bacilli decrease the risk of apparition of other germs such as other bacteria, parasites, fungi or viruses increase and so does the risk of apparition of various pathological conditions. When it comes to the risk of cancer development, it is widely accepted that carcinogenesis is a complex mechanism of interactions between hormonal, immune and infectious factors (4,5). Infectious factors seem to stimulate carcinogenesis process through multiple pathways: by stimulating cell proliferation, by modifying the normal functioning of the immune system, by influencing the deoxyribonucleic acid damage and repair and by interacting with different hormones such as oestrogen (6-8). Therefore, when it comes to the risk of cervical cancer development, the most commonly incriminated germs are represented by HPV followed by other pathogenic agents such as *Fusobacterium*, *Gardnerella vaginalis* and *Atopobium vaginae* (9,10). Another interesting correlation ship has been established between alimentary habits, vaginal microbioma and the risk of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; therefore a diet rich in vegetables and fish seems to have a protective effect against this preneoplastic condition (10,11).

THE INFLUENCE OF VAGINAL MICROBIOTA ON THE FURTHER RISK OF CERVICAL CANCER DEVELOPMENT

Although screening tests have been widely implemented worldwide in order to provide an efficient pro-

gram of cervical cancer prevention and early diagnostic, in a significant number of low and medium resource countries the rate of compliance is still very low and a significant number of patients are diagnosed with this malignancy in advanced stages of the disease. In such cases a completely curable preneoplastic lesion is replaced with an advanced, aggressive gynecologic malignancy which is further associated with high rates of morbidity and cancer related death (11-14).

Meanwhile, relevant studies came to demonstrate that in patients diagnosed with preneoplastic lesions and intraepithelial lesions of the uterine cervix, HPV infection was also associated with other modifications of the vaginal flora such as a significant decrease of the proportion of Lactobacilli but also with the increase of the amount of Peptostreptococcus, Fusobacteria and *Anaerococcus tetradius*. Moreover, a direct proportionality relationship was observed between the number of these bacteria and the severity of the neoplastic process. Therefore, cases presenting a lower bacterial burden were rather identified to have low grade preneoplastic lesions while cases presenting increased burden rather associated high grade dysplastic lesions or even cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; moreover, a poorer long term outcome has been demonstrated in cases presenting Peptostreptococcus and Fusobacteria infections (15-17).

THE INFLUENCE OF TOPIC AGENTS ON THE RISK OF CERVICAL CANCER DEVELOPMENT

Once these aspects have been widely demonstrated, attention was focused on creating topic agents with intravaginal administrations with a higher capacity of re-establishing the normal vaginal flora. Therefore, creation of such a product which is able to re-establish a normal colonization at the level of the vaginal lining seems to be an effective weapon in order to prevent the apparition of preneoplastic and neoplastic cervical lesions. Meanwhile, association of other active principles which aim to provide a better healing of all the local microlesions which might further be considered as entering points for different species of viruses, bacteria and fungi seems to be an effective method in order to increase their benefits (18-20).

THE ROLE OF CERVIRON IN PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF PRENEOPLASTIC LESIONS OF THE UTERINE CERVIX

Cerviron represents a topical agent which is recommended to be administrated intravaginally and which contains seven active principles. The main therapeutic

effects of this product are related with it's antiseptic properties (due to the presence of hexylresorcinol, *Thymus vulgaris* extract and Hydrastis extract), to it's anti-inflammatory properties (due to the presence of calendula extract) and due to it's healing properties (due to the presence of collagen, bismuth subgallate and curcuma extract). Meanwhile, the association of bismuth subgallate seems to provide an important homeostatic effect decreasing in this way the rates of vaginal bleeding and increasing the chances for rapid healing. Meanwhile, this product seems to be particularly effective in order provide a faster healing of different inflammatory processes which, if untreated, seem to increase the chances of local malignant transformation.

As expected, maybe the most important mechanism of action through which this product can impact on the risk of preneoplastic lesions development is by modulating the compounds of the vaginal microbioma and increasing the amount of vaginal lactobacilli. Therefore, through it's antiseptic role it seems to increase the efficacy of system antibiotic treatment and therefore to decrease the length of administration of this treatment, to decrease the risk of treatment related complications and to maximize the local antibacteri- an effect.

In consequence, the daily administration of this product seem to re-establish a normal equilibrium at this level and to decrease the risk of apparition of pre-malignant and even in situ malignant conditions at the level of the uterine cervix.

CONCLUSIONS

Local topical administration of products such as Cerviron seems to play a significant role in order to decrease the risk of development of preneoplastic conditions at the level of the uterine cervix. The main mechanisms through which cervical cancer might be prevented is by re-establishing a normal composition of the vaginal flora which can further prevent the apparition of HPV infection; meanwhile it has been demonstrated that local development of other pathogenic agents such as Peptostreptococcus and Fusobacteria can be further incriminate din the development of such pathological conditions; therefore reestablishment of the normal amount of protective microorganisms such as lactobacilli will further prevent the development of such pathogenic agents and therefore will decrease the risk of preneoplastic conditions.

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