HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN LIBYAN WOMEN WITH POSTMENOPAUSAL BLEEDING
F. Elrishi, E. Shatwan, Z. El Taie
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Misurata Teaching Hospital, Libya

Postmenopausal bleeding is an alarming sign that may be associated with uterine malignancy. There is little data concerning about this issue in our locality; so we have investigated the histopathological findings in women presented with postmenopausal bleeding by conducting a three-year retrospective study of 120 gynecological surgical specimens from 110 women accessed in the Department of pathology at Misurata Teaching Hospital. Demographic, medical and gynecological data were assessed including patient's age, parity, the interval between menopause, history of hormonal therapy, onset of PMB, and biopsy site. The mean age for women with postmenopausal bleeding was 56.7 ± 9.8 years old. 80.9% of them had benign pathology. The onset of PMB was seen more often in the earlier postmenopausal years i.e. < 6 year (68%). Endometrial polyp was the commonest pathology representing 46.4% of the total specimens while endometrial atrophy representing 10.9%. Of the total cases; 5.5% had simple cystic endometrial hyperplasia. Leiomyoma was reported in 10% of the cases associated with other pathology including chronic nonspecific cervicitis and adenomyosis. Three patients (2.7%) were diagnosed to have premalignant changes. The frequency of malignancy among these women was 11.8 %, most of them reported histopathologically to have endometrial carcinoma that was increased with older age. Benign pathology is more frequent than malignancy as a cause postmenopausal uterine bleeding, but we must always rule out a cancer by oriented biopsy. The reported high frequency of malignancy in women with postmenopausal bleeding is worrisome and suggests the need for public education and screening.