

مروری بر درمان دارویی  
سندرم تخمدان پلی کیستیک (PCOs)  
و تداخلات دارو و غذا

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# Polycystic Ovary Syndrome:

Variable spectrum of symptoms/conditions

- ▶ Hyperandrogenism
  - ▶ hirsutism, severe acne, male pattern alopecia
- ▶ Menstrual irregularity(cycles less than 21 days or more than 35 days)
  - oligo or amenorrhea, irregular bleeding
- ▶ Polycystic ovaries
- ▶ Central obesity

➤ **Infertility** with changes in endocrine hormones including increased levels of androgens, estrogen, prolactin and decreased levels of progesterone

➤ **Metabolic disorders** such as insulin resistance, obesity, hyperlipidemia and type 2 diabetes

## Patients with polycystic ovary syndrome:

- Due to risk factors such as **obesity**, **hyperinsulinemia**, **hyperandrogenism**, **insulin resistance** and **dyslipidemia**, they are exposed to other diseases such as **cardiovascular** and **thrombotic diseases**.
- Obesity and especially **abdominal obesity** is seen in 75% of patients with this syndrome.
- According to scientific research, losing **5 to 10 percent** of body weight makes it possible to resume **ovulation** and get pregnant without medical intervention.

- *Diagnosis of polycystic ovary syndrome:*

- *Ultrasound evidence of polycystic ovary (increase in ovarian volume to more than 9 ml, presence of 2-8 cysts 10 mm or more in each ovary and an increase in uterine stromal density (endometrial hyperplasia)).*
- *Metabolic disorders such as elevated serum levels of LH, testosterone, insulin, prolactin and insulin resistance are common in this disease.*



## ❑ Treatment :

- Treatment for polycystic ovary syndrome depends on the patient, some patients need oral contraceptives while others use ovulation induction. Sustained treatment of hyperandrogenism and hirsutism can be done simultaneously.
- However, control of hirsutism may not be possible in patients who wish to become pregnant. The types of treatment methods are as follows:

**1- Weight loss:** is the first recommendation in obese patients; Weight loss during the 6-month period significantly reduces testosterone and in 75% of women causes ovulation to resume.

**2- Oral contraceptive pills (OCP):** reduce the production of steroids in the ovaries and adrenal glands and reduce hirsutism in two-thirds of patients.

Contraceptive pills that contain new progestins minimize androgen activity.

Contraceptive use alone may be ineffective in treating hirsutism in women with polycystic ovary syndrome (less than 10%).

In these patients, insulin resistance also increases due to the use of these drugs.

# Oral contraceptives and risk assessment in PCOS

- ❑ Combined estrogen-progestin oral contraceptives (COCs) are the *mainstay of pharmacologic therapy* for women with PCOS for managing hyperandrogenism and menstrual dysfunction and for providing contraception.
- ❑ COCs are associated with an increased risk of **venous thromboembolism (VTE)** in all users but particularly in obese women. There have been concerns that the presence of PCOS per se may represent an additional independent risk factor for VTE, but available data do not support this concept.
- ❑ We currently suggest using caution if COCs are prescribed to obese



**3. Depomedroxyprogesterone or medroxyprogesterone acetate:** This drug is successfully used to treat hirsutism. 150 mg every three months depomodorex progesterone or 20-40 mg oral medroxyprogesterone acetate 95% reduces hair growth.

**4. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist:** Suppresses steroid production from the ovary. Luprolide acetate treats hirsutism every 28 days. Adding a contraceptive or estrogen to the gonadotropin-releasing hormone prevents bone loss and other complications of atrophy and atrophy.



**5. Dexamethasone:** Used to treat patients with adrenal hyperandrogenism or a mixture of it with the ovary.

**6. Ketoconazole:** This drug reduces the concentration of androstenedione and free testosterone at a low dose of 200 mg per day.

**7. Spironolactone:** A diuretic that preserves potassium and lowers testosterone. Reduces the daily linear growth rate of sexual hair and the diameter of the hair shaft. 100- 25 mg twice a day has the maximum effect.

**\*\* The most common complication is menstrual irregularities,**

**8. Cyproterone acetate:** It has strong anti-androgenic properties that are used in severe cases of hirsutism and acne. Concomitant use of this drug with estrogen is more effective.

**9. Metformin (glucophage):** using dose of 500 mg three times a day to significantly improve Hyperandrogenism

## Pharmacotherapy for hyperandrogenism management in PCOS women.

Drug	Administration	Safety, limit and side effects
COCs DRSP CMA Cyproterone acetate	Low-dose COCs containing EE2/ antiandrogenic progestins are administered since the 1 day of menses for at least 6 months. DRSP 3 mg combined with EE2 20 or 30 µg CMA 2 mg plus EE 30 µg	Avoid progestin with high androgenic power (i.e., LNG) COCs employment was not related to a significant impairment on glucose tolerance Products containing third-generation progestins, DRSP or cyproterone acetate represents a safe treatment in PCOS patients with regular CV risk. Clinician should pay attention to patient characteristics before starting any hormonal therapy, especially in adolescents, hypertensive women and smokers Spironolactone induces polyuria, nicturia, iperkaliemia, hypotension Flutamide induces gynecomastia, breast pain, dry skin, fatal liver toxicity
<i>Antiandrogens</i> Spironolactone Finasteride Flutamide	Daily dose of 200 mg Daily dose of 5 or 7.5 mg Daily dose of 250 – 500 mg	All antiandrogens have a teratogenic effect on genital of fetus (feminization of male foetuses)
<i>Eflornithine</i>	Topic application at the formulation of 13.9%	Efficacy disappears just after 8 weeks; skin irritation, stinging, burning, tingling and erythema
<i>ISDs</i> Metformin Thiazolidinediones	Daily dose 1500 – 2250 mg	Metformin assumption induces gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal bloating). Thiazolidinediones increase body weight

COCs: Combined oral contraceptives; CMA: Chlormadinone acetate; CV: Cardiovascular; DRSP: Drospirenone; EE2: Ethinylestradiol; ISDs: Insulin-sensitizing drugs; LNG: Levonorgestrel.



*Pharmacotherapy  
of  
polycystic ovary syndrome  
(Drug -Nutrient Interactions)*

## *Clomiphene Citrate:*

- ❖ *use in polycystic ovaries has excellent results.  
In some study populations, 80 to 85 percent of women ovulate and 40 percent become pregnant*

*\*\* The first line of treatment to stimulate ovulation is clomiphene citrate, and resistance to this drug is common with obesity and hyperinsulinemia due to peripheral insulin resistance, and the dose should be increased in overweight individuals.*

## ☐ *Side Effects*

*Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome*  
*flushing ("hot flashes")*

*Nausea*

*Feeling of pain in the breast and discomfort in the pelvis*  
*(breast tenderness)*

*Stomach upset*

*headache*

*dizziness*



## Spironolactone:

When potassium-sparing diuretics are used, a high intake of potassium-rich foodstuffs such as licorice, bananas, kiwis, oranges, spinach and other green leafy vegetables, and salt substitutes may result in **hyperkalaemia**.

In particular, severe hyperkalaemia with serious **cardiac arrhythmia** has developed after excessive use of potassium-containing salt substitutes in patients treated with spironolactone.

## *Spironolactone Side Effects*

- Drowsiness, dizziness, lightheadedness, stomach upset, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or headache may occur. To minimize lightheadedness, get up slowly when rising from a seated or lying position.
- increased thirst, signs of kidney problems (such as change in the amount of urine), mental/mood changes, unusual fatigue/weakness, muscle spasms, menstrual period changes, breast pain, breast enlargement (gynecomastia) in men, sexual function problems, signs of infection (e.g., fever, persistent sore throat), severe stomach/abdominal pain, persistent nausea/vomiting, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, dark urine, yellowing of the eyes/skin, easy bruising/bleeding.

## Metformin:

- By reducing *hepatic gluconeogenesis* and increasing *peripheral glucose uptake*, it decreases plasma *insulin levels* and also induces normal menstruation by reducing serum LH and androgen levels.
- Clinical studies show that the ovaries respond better to stimulation of ovulation with *clomiphene* if metformin is used concomitantly.
- In obese patients with PCOs, weight loss along with the use of metformin can show positive effects, and in people with this disease who are normal weight, the use of metformin



## ❑ Side Effects:

Nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, diarrhea, weakness, or a metallic taste in the mouth may occur.

Metformin does not usually cause low blood sugar (**hypoglycemia**). Low blood sugar may occur if this drug is prescribed with other diabetes medications.

Metformin reduces the absorption of **vitamin B12** in up to 30% of patients, decreases the serum concentration of this vitamin in 5-10% of patients and rarely causes **megaloblastic anemia** and **peripheral neuropathy** .

**\*\***In one study, the reduction in the absorption of this vitamin was corrected by administration of a calcium carbonate supplement (1.2 g daily).

In another study, taking a daily multivitamin supplement reduced vitamin B12 deficiency.

Diabetics should avoid excessive **alcohol** consumption during treatment with metformin.

Concurrent symptoms include: lactic acidosis, restlessness, severe muscle pain, irregular heartbeat, drowsiness, abdominal discomfort



## ❑ *Metformin drug interactions:*

*Cimetidine, amiloride, calcium channel blockers, digoxin, morphine, procaine amide, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim, and vancomycin excreted by renal tubular transport, Increase the plasma concentration of metformin and interfere with renal clearance.*

- Insulin-sensitizing drugs:

**Metformin** and **thiazolidinediones** are insulin-sensitizing drugs (ISDs), which act by improving insulin sensitivity with following reduction in serum androgen concentration. All guidelines do not suggest insulin sensitizers to treat hirsutism. however, several studies evaluated their employment in hyperandrogenism reduction .

Thiazolidinediones (pioglitazone and rosiglitazone) improve peripheral action of insulin. Available data have shown a reduction in Ferriman--Gallwey score and androgen serum levels in adult and young PCOS women, without significant difference in terms of Ferriman--Gallwey scores compared with metformin .

However, glitazones do not have any role in PCOS treatment nowadays because of the serious side effects (such as CV and ischemic and bladder cancer risks)



*Non-hormonal treatments  
for  
polycystic ovary syndrome*

## *Myo-inositol:*

*Deficiency of myoinositol causes insulin resistance, and with its administration, insulin resistance decreases. It can also improve fat profile and regularize menses. The duration of treatment varies in different articles and has been reported between 3 to 6 months and even up to 5 years. (If gastrointestinal side effects do not occur) and usually has no side effects.*

## Vitamin D:

Decreased vitamin D by impairing **aromatase gene expression** as well as decreased **calcium** levels and increased **parathyroid hormone** levels promotes endocrine disorders in polycystic ovary syndrome.

Modifying vitamin D levels improves menstruation, builds dominant follicles and ovulates, and reduces insulin resistance.

*Effect of vitamin D supplementation on polycystic ovary syndrome: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials Fang Fang et al. 2017*



## *Chromium:*

*Chromium is involved in homeostasis and insulin. Administration of chromium at a dose of 800-200 micrograms for 8-12 months reduces fasting insulin levels and weight loss.*

*Chromium supplementation and polycystic ovary syndrome: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Siavash Fazelian et al. 2017*

*Chromium supplementation does not improve weight loss or metabolic and hormonal variables in patients with polycystic ovary syndrome: A systematic review, Vahid Maleki et al. 2017*

## *L-Carnitine:*

*Administration of L-carnitine at a dose of 250 mg per day can improve fat profile, reduce fasting sugar and reduce abdominal fat.*

## *Omega-3 supplements:*

*Omega3 can lower androgen levels in women with PCOS. One study found that women with PCOS who received three grams of omega-3s daily for eight weeks had lower testosterone levels and were more likely to have regular periods than those who took placebos.*

*Supply of micronutrients **zinc**, **magnesium**, **cobalt**, **selenium** and **copper** in polycystic ovary syndrome helps to improve the disease*

***Vitamin B6** helps to improve the symptoms of this syndrome.*

*Blood Trace Element Concentrations in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, Poli Mara Spritzer et al. 2017*



## **N-acetyl cysteine and PCOD:**

N-acetyl cysteine (NAC) inhibits oxidative stress and prevents hyperglycemia-induced insulin resistance .

PCOS patients with hyperinsulinemia, treatment with NAC results in improvement of insulin sensitivity and a significant decline in plasma testosterone and lipid levels.

## **Melatonin and PCOD:**

Not only anovulation but also decreased oocyte and embryo quality may be a cause of infertility in women with PCOS. The reactive oxygen species–induced oxidative stress may be responsible for poor oocyte quality. Studies have demonstrated that there are increased lipid peroxidation products both in serum and in follicular fluids.

high concentrations of melatonin in serum, women with PCOS have a deficiency of this indoleamine in their ovarian follicles.

Increased serum melatonin in PCOS may be a feedback response to the deficient levels of melatonin in the ovary

The high levels of melatonin in the FF are essential for follicle growth, ovulation, and oocyte quality, whereas reduced follicular melatonin concentrations may be responsible for anovulation and poor oocyte quality in PCOS.



## Acarbose and PCOS:

Acarbose is an oral tablet used in the management of type 2 diabetes.

Acarbose reduces the postprandial rise in both serum glucose and insulin levels by inhibiting *α*-glucosidase, an enzyme responsible for the intestinal absorption of carbohydrates, and hence decreases the serum androgen concentrations in hyperinsulinemic premenopausal women. Dose-related adverse effects, including flatulence, diarrhea, and abdominal distention, may be minimized by titration. Unlike other antidiabetic drugs, acarbose does not cause hypoglycemia because it does not stimulate insulin release. Acarbose exhibits a low systemic absorption profile. Various studies have demonstrated that acarbose therapy improves various clinical manifestations of PCOS, including insulin resistance, signs and symptoms of hyperandrogenism, menstrual irregularity, obesity (in women with BMI > 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), and infertility

Acarbose should be consumed between meals (not more than half an hour before or after meals)



**Lifestyle change** is the most important therapeutic principle in polycystic ovary syndrome. A good low-calorie, high-fiber diet is the best nutritional advice for these people. Eliminating simple sugars and limiting sugars from the diet will reduce insulin resistance. In general, low carbohydrate diet with moderate to high fat percentage and increased physical activity and exercise are ways to treat this syndrome.

Regular **exercise** (at least 4 hours a week) that causes sweating and increased heart rate has a significant effect on controlling symptoms in these people. **Weight loss** of 5-10% with a reduction of 30-35% of peritoneal fat reduces androgen synthesis and control symptoms and reduces cardiovascular complications.



Thank you for your attention

