Pathway (4) for irregular/prolonged bleeding with Implanon and Depo-Provera

Woman presents to GP with irregular/prolonged bleeding

Implanon (3yr life)

Unacceptable bleeding pattern develops during 3yr life

Develops in first 2 years

- Reassurance & sexual history / chlamydia / smear / exclude pregnancy in first few months
- Menstrual diary
- POP eg Cerazette 6-8 wks or COCP eg 6-8wks Mercilon / Marvelon if not contraindicated

Improvement and/or symptoms acceptable

YES → Continue

NO →

- Reassurance & sexual health history / chlamydia / change method after 6mths
- Removal of Implanon OR leave in situ & continue to add POP or COCP
- Consider endometrial pathology in older women

Develops after 2 years

- Reassurance & sexual history / chlamydia / smear
- Menstrual diary
- POP eg 6-8wks Cerazette or COCP eg 6-8wks Mercilon / Marvelon if not contraindicated
- If no improvement consider changing to new Implanon or alternative method

Depo-Provera (12/52 life)

First injection 4 or more weeks ago

See Box 1

Prolonged bleeding continues/ recurs

See Box 2

Bleeding continues

See Box 2 or 3

After several consecutive injections at correct intervals

Sexual history / examination / chlamydia / smear (within local screening programme) exclude pregnancy if late with injections

Negative results

Last Depo less than 8 wks ago

See Box 2

Bleeding continues at 4 wks

See Box 2 and/or 3

Positive results

Treat & continue Depo as required

Last Depo more than 8 wks ago

See Box 2 and/or 3

Box 1

- Give 2nd injection, reassure & offer appointment for 3rd injection 8-11 wks after 2nd injection

Box 2

- Add COC/POP if not contraindicated for 4-6 wks (see Implanon pathway).
- Offer appointment 8-11 wks after last injection

Box 3

- If bleeding continues to be unacceptable having followed pathways for 4-5 injections change method.
- Consider endometrial pathology in older women

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