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### **Should Endometriosis-Associated Ovarian Cancer Alter the Management of Women with an Intact Endometrioma in the Reproductive Age?**

#### **Abstract:**

Endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer (EAOC) is an evolving clinical entity believed to develop from ovarian endometriosis. Continuous efforts are nowadays invested in exploring its pathogenesis and causality. Since endometrioma is a widespread subtype of the disease, malignant transformation to EAOC during reproductive age may cause much concern and affect its management. The summary relative risk of developing EAOC in women with endometriosis is 1.93-fold compared to women without endometriosis, but its lifetime risk is relatively low, equivalent to 2.1%. EAOC is an age-dependent disease with a mean age of  $51.64 \pm 3.24$  years at diagnosis; 30.68% of patients are below 50, presumably premenopausal. Only 2.10% and 0.017% of cases are below 45 and 40 years, apparently in reproductive age. The evidence is reassuring and implies that managing an intact endometrioma should not be altered in most women of reproductive age. Particular attention should be focused on sporadic cases with an enlarging endometrioma, atypical findings on transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS), and characteristic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) features.

**Keywords:** endometriosis; endometrioma; endometriosis-associated ovarian cancer; reproductive age.

**Biography:** A full professor at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, affiliated with Bar-Ilan University. He is the past Chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Circle and the past Chair of the Admission Committee at the Faculty of Medicine. He is the past Chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Examination Board, the Scientific Council, and the Israeli Medical Association. Until July 2023, he served as the past Vice Dean for Clinical Education at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine in Galilee. His present interests are low ovarian reserve, ovarian reserve biomarkers, endometriosis, and controlled ovarian stimulation.