

Gillian Baird
University of Dundee
5th Year Medical Student

OSCE station

Instruction for students

You are a trainee in a GP practice and have been asked to see 35 year old Jean McArthur who is experiencing post-coital bleeding.

- Take a history (5mins)
- Perform a appropriate examination (5mins)
- Explain your findings to examiner (5mins)

Instructions for patient

Try and act embarrassed to talk to the student about your bleeding after you and your husband “you know” and wait until the patient reassures you that you have done the right thing to come to the doctor.

HPC:

You and your husband had unprotected sex 2 weeks ago and you have experienced some bleeding after having sex. The bleeding is light spotting, but you are concerned as it is not your time of the month at the moment. The bleeding has been persistent since then. This has happened a couple of times before but the bleeding did not last for as long. There is no pain associated with the bleeding and you do not have any urinary symptoms.

Gynaecological History

Your last menstrual period was 3 weeks ago and you have a regular 28 day cycle which lasts for 3 days. You started your periods at the age of 14 and do not suffer from any heavy bleeding or pain during your period.

You and your husband have been together for 15 years and you have not had sex with anyone else and you do not think he has had sex with anyone else either. You have sex regularly if he’s lucky and do not use condoms as you take the oral contraceptive pill. You have not notice any other vaginal discharge other than blood and have no history of previous STIs.

Cervical History

You have not been for a smear for 6 years as you have moved house and forgot to register with a new GP. You have never had any abnormal smear results. No previous gynaecological history or surgery.

Obstetric History

You have 1 child who was delivered normally and no miscarriages

You otherwise keep fit and well and only take the OCP. You do not smoke or drink any alcohol.

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Notes to Examiner

This station is to assess if the student is able to address the red flag symptoms surrounding post-coital bleeding.

Looking for

Introduction to the patient	
Obtain Name & Date of Birth	
Wash Hands	
Start with Open Questions	
Obtains good gynaecological history (gravid, para, dyspareunia etc)	
Obtains a good smear history	
Empathy	
Address Ideas Concerns and Expectations	

Examination

Explains procedure to the patient	*enormously important! Ask if have had an 'internal' examination done before
Obtains consent	
Explains need for chaperone	
Appropriately positions patient	
Gloves & Handwashing	
Examine external genitalia	
Lubrication of the speculum	
Appropriate insertion method for speculum	
Examination of cervix	
Able to obtain a HVS adequately	
Able to obtain cervical smear successfully	
Removal of speculum	
Bimanual examination	
Appropriate redressing of the patient	

Ability to explain further management to patient depending on findings. Having photographs of abnormal cervixes, for discussion.

Ask the student to present their examination findings to you. They should describe a normal vulva and vagina followed by a visible lesion on the cervix, bimanual examination is normal, no cervical excitation.

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If time allows you can ask the student what their next step would be for the patient and what investigations they would like to organise.