



Link Between Bacterial Infection and Endometriosis

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Why in News?

Despite the prevalence of **Endometriosis**, the **underlying causes and mechanisms of endometriosis remain unclear**. However, a recent study has shed light on a potential link between a **specific bacteria** and the **development and aggravation of endometriosis**.

What is Endometriosis?

▪ About:

- It is a chronic condition that affects that affects approximately **one in 10 women worldwide**. It occurs when the **tissue that normally lines the uterus (endometrium) grows outside of it**, forming lesions on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, bladder, bowel or other pelvic organs.
- The exact cause of endometriosis is still unknown.

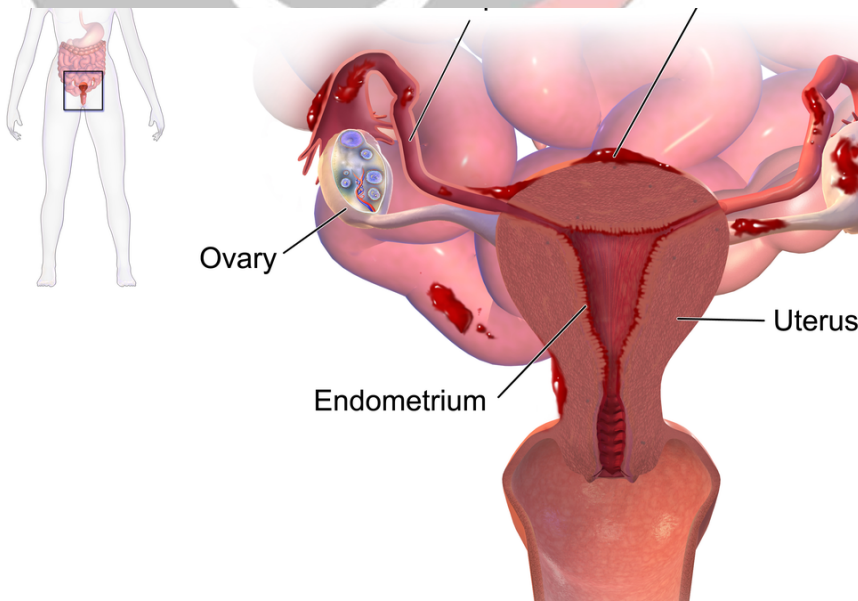
▪ Impacts:

- Women with endometriosis often experience **infertility, chronic pain during periods, pelvic pain, bloating, nausea, fatigue**, and may also be at a higher risk of depression and anxiety.

▪ Current Available Treatments:

- **Hormonal Therapy:** Certain hormone-based treatments, like birth control pills or hormone-containing intrauterine devices, can help control the growth of endometrial tissue.
- **Surgery: Laparoscopic surgery** can be performed to remove or destroy the endometrial tissue growths.
- **Fertility Treatment:** For women facing fertility issues, assisted reproductive technologies like in [vitro fertilization \(IVF\)](#) can be considered.

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What is the Bacterial Infection Linked to Endometriosis?

- The bacterial infection linked to endometriosis is caused by a species of bacteria called **Fusobacterium**.
 - Fusobacterium is **normally found in the mouth and the gut**, where it can cause dental plaque, gum disease, appendicitis and inflammatory bowel disease.
 - However, it can also spread to other parts of the body through the **bloodstream or sexual contact**, causing infections in the lungs, brain, liver or reproductive organs.
- The link between **Fusobacterium and endometriosis** was discovered by a team of **researchers from Japan**, who conducted a study involving 155 women, 79 of whom had endometriosis and 76 of whom did not.
 - The researchers analyzed the DNA of the bacteria present in the blood, saliva and vaginal fluid of the women, and found that **Fusobacterium was detected in 64% of the women with endometriosis**, compared to **only 7% of the women without endometriosis**.
- This finding could help expand the range of treatment options for endometriosis. For example, **antibiotics or probiotics could be used to target Fusobacterium or restore a healthy balance of bacteria** in the body.
 - However, more research is needed to confirm the causal relationship between Fusobacterium and endometriosis, and to understand how it affects different women with different symptoms and severity of the condition.

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