

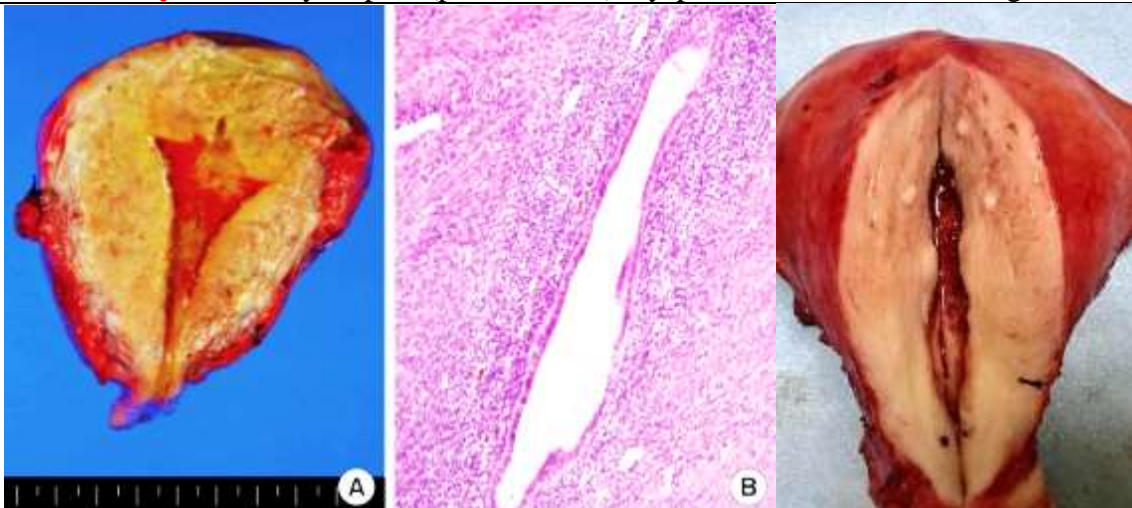
XXI. Diseases of the Female Genital System

Endometriosis (adenomyosis)**Uterus:**

- Is enlarged
- Thick-walled
- Shows diffuse fibromyomatous-like tissue with glandular (adenomatous) structures.
- No encapsulation

**N.B.1:**

- Endometriosis when internal is called adenomyosis.
- Here, the endometrial tissue is detected in the muscular wall of the uterus.
- The uterus becomes enlarged but of normal outline.
- The anterior (or posterior) wall is diffusely-thickened.
- There is absence of the sharp demarcation of a myoma.
- Homogeneous translucent areas (brownish extravasated menstrual blood) or/and small cystic spaces (filled with chocolate-coloured material) may appear scattered throughout.
- Occasionally, a single ill-defined adenomyomatous mass may appear in the wall of the uterus.
- **Clinically**, there may be pain (premenstrual), dyspareunia or/and menorrhagia.



N.B.2:

- The presence of endometrial glands and stroma in tissues outside the uterine wall is called external endometriosis.
- Some sites are: Ovaries, uterine tubes, round ligaments, peritoneum, operation-scars, intestine and lymph nodes.
- Clinically, (and especially in the ovary), there appear chocolate-like cysts.
- A painful mass may be present in the affected area.
- Later on → fibrous tissue adhesions → obstructive effect.

N.B.3:

Congenital abnormalities of uterus

1. *Absence or more commonly hypoplasia.*
2. *Incomplete canalization or atresia specially of the cervical canal.*
3. *Unicornis uterus or septate uterus.*
4. *Double uterus with double cervix.*

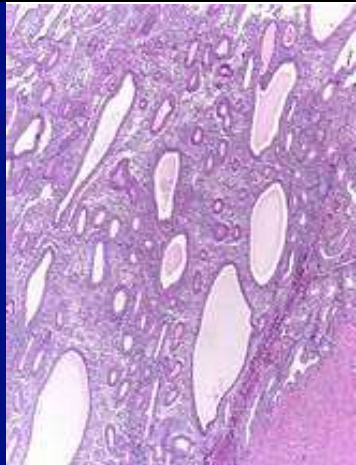
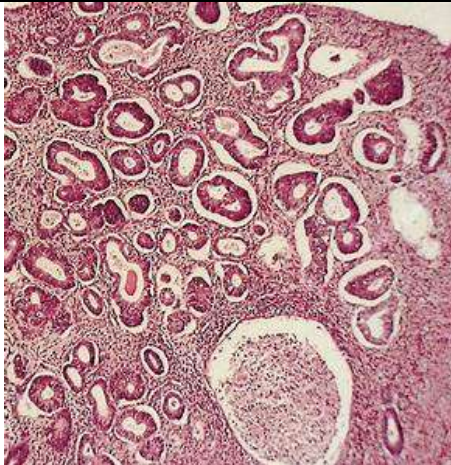
Adenomatous Hyperplasia (endometrium)

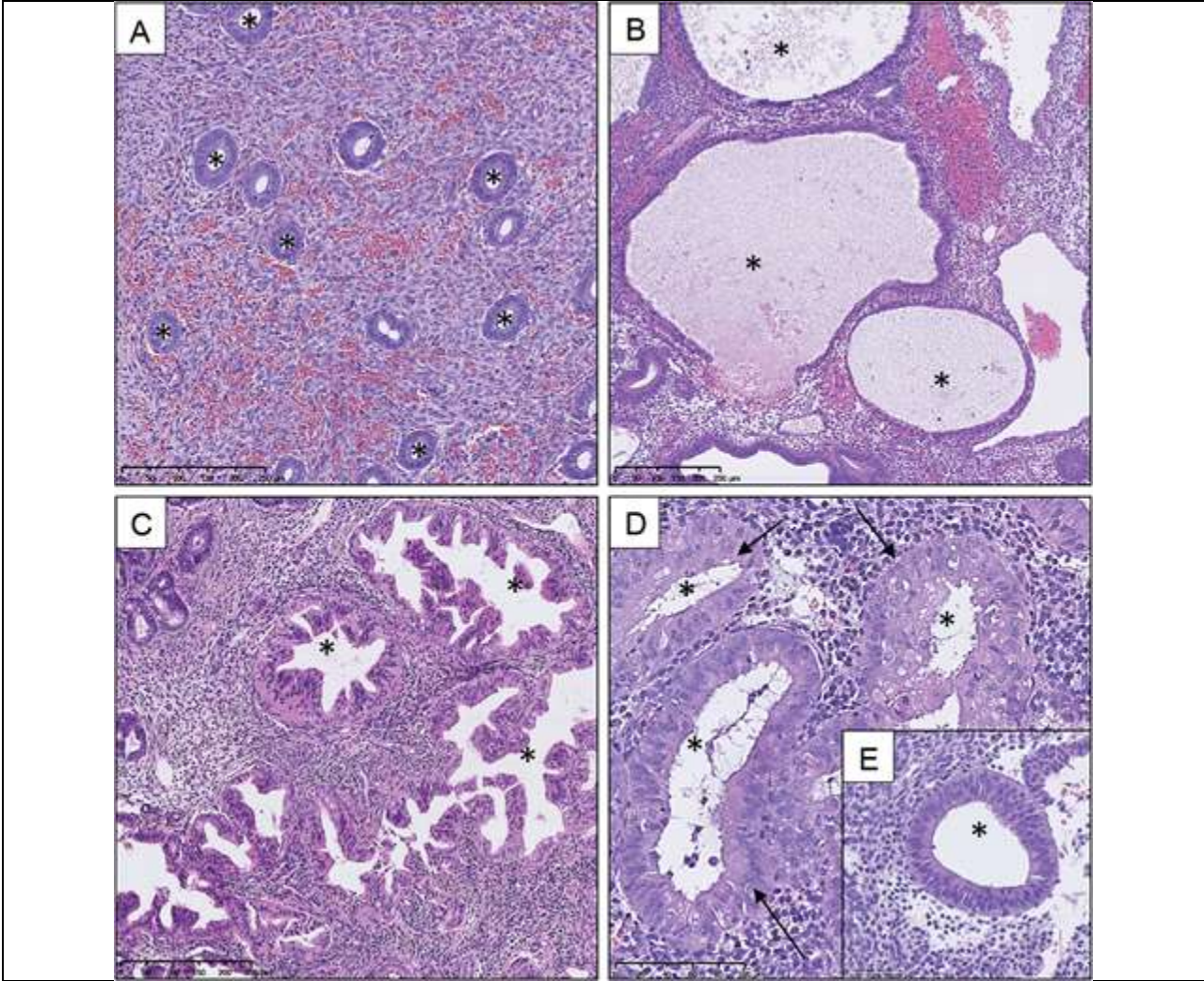
Uterus:

- Is slightly or moderately enlarged

Endometrium:

- Is thickened
- Vascular and reddish
- Polypoid





N.B.:

- *Adenomatous hyperplasia, cystic hyperplasia and atrophy of the endometrium are three common conditions indicating abnormal endometrial function and dependent upon hormonal imbalance relating the pituitary and the ovarian hormones as well as the balance between oestrogen and progesterone:*

1. Adenomatous hyperplasia:

- Endometrium is markedly thick grey, velvety and vascular.
- The mucosa is more irregular and appears nodular with polypoid projections.
- The condition is more related to (and has to be differentiated from) adenocarcinoma.
- In such cases, the ovaries show follicular cysts indicating excess of oestrogen.
- **Clinically**, menstrual irregularities (during the reproductive period) and even sterility.

2. Cystic hyperplasia (Swiss-cheese endometrium):

- *Endometrium is thick, pale grey, velvety, granular and with cystic dilatation.*
- Clinically, metrorrhagia (irregular bleeding between the periods) and menorrhagia (excessive uterine bleeding at the menstrual period).

3. Atrophy:

- *Endometrium is thin, atrophic, flat, glazed, greyish-red and inactive.*
- **Clinically**, irregular uterine bleeding which occurs more during senility or post-menopausal.

