

9th Yazd International Congress and Student Award on Reproductive Medicine with 4th Congress of Reproductive Genetics

Key Lectures

K-55

Practical use of tissue engineering in treatment of ovarian cancer and vaginal infections

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The female vaginal tract has its own innate defence system that involves the natural microbiota, the vaginal epithelium and proteins that help manage a healthy microbiome. In this project, we are concerned with what happens when things go wrong with this balance.

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a common vaginal infection with 1 in 3 pre-menopausal women in the UK suffering from BV at some point in their life. Intravaginal treatment can be impeded during menstruation and BV can often recur within a few weeks if not treated effectively. Management of the vaginal biofilm is an emerging sector in women's health. Globally, 20-30% of women of reproductive age suffer from BV, as yet only partially understood but associated with an increased chance of preterm abortion, pelvic inflammatory disease and sexually transmitted diseases. The symptoms of discharge and offensive smell can cause considerable distress. The aim of this project is to offer women a temporary scaffold encapsulated with a drug that can manage the biofilm on the epithelial layer of the vagina.