# Priority Topic: VAGINAL BLEEDING

## Key Features:

1. In **any woman** with vaginal bleeding, **rule out pregnancy**.

   ✓ Just do it! The rest of the Key Features divide Vag Bleed into: Pregnant, Non-pregnant, and Menopausal. So the first step in the decision tree is to determine pregnancy status.

2. In **pregnant** patients with vaginal bleeding: see also Priority Topic Pregnancy
   
   a) **Consider worrisome causes** (e.g., ectopic pregnancy, abruption, abortion), and confirm or exclude the diagnosis through appropriate **interpretation of test results**.

   **What you should study:** Lots of options, just make sure you understand the interpretation of b-hCG and ultrasound. The notes from the podcast are good for this.

   ✓ EM Cases: Episode 23 Vaginal Bleed in Early Pregnancy
   ✓ Ectopic Pregnancy AAFP 2014
   ✓ Pregnancy Loss AAFP 2011
   ✓ Early Pregnancy Loss ACOG 2017
   ✓ First Trimester Bleed AAFP 2009
   ✓ Late Pregnancy Bleed AAFP 2007 **Important for Previa, Abruption**
   ✓ Trauma in Pregnancy SOGC 2015
   ✓ Je saigne, tu saignes, elles saignent MduQ 2011
b) Do not forget **blood typing and screening**, and offer **rH immunoglobulin treatment**, if appropriate.

**What you should study:**

- EM Cases: Episode 23 Vaginal Bleed in Early Pregnancy
- Rh Immunization SOGC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>c) Diagnose (and treat) <strong>hemodynamic instability</strong>.</th>
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<td><strong>What you should study:</strong> See Priority Topics ACLS, Trauma</td>
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<td>Hemorrhagic Shock SOGC 2002</td>
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3. In a **non-pregnant** patient with vaginal bleeding:

   a) Do an **appropriate work-up** and testing to diagnose worrisome causes (e.g., cancer), using an **age-appropriate approach**.

**What you should study:**

- AUB in Premenopausal Women SOGC 2018
- PALM-COIN Figo Classification 2011
- IMB and Post-Coital Bleeding 2017
b) Diagnose (and treat) **hemodynamic instability**.

**What you should study:** See Priority topics ACLS, Trauma

- Hemorrhagic Shock SOGC 2002

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c) **Manage hemodynamically stable** but significant vaginal bleeding (e.g., with medical versus surgical treatment).

**What you should study:** The AJOG article is great!

- Acute AUB in Premenopausal Women ACOG 2013
- Management of AUB AJOG 2015  **Special attention to Table 1 and Table 3**
- ED Management of Vaginal Bleed 2013
- AUB Management Updates 2017

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4. In a **post-menopausal** woman with vaginal bleeding, **investigate** any new or changed vaginal bleeding in a timely manner (e.g., with endometrial biopsy testing, ultrasonography, computed tomography, a Pap test, and with a pelvic examination).

**What you should study:**

- Postmenopausal bleeding 2012
- Endometrial cancer AAFP 2016
- Endometrial cancer SOGC 2013