PIPADOR REVISION

MRCOG Part 1 Revision Notes

Ectropion

PATHOLOGY • LECTURE 340

VISUAL EXAMINATION REVISION NOTES

2026 Edition

340

MRCOG PART 1 REVISION NOTES | PATHOLOGY

Ectropion

Cervical histology, transformation zone, pathophysiology, clinical features and management of ectropion

Physiological	Oestrogen	PCB	TZ
Columnar epithelium on ectocervix	Puberty, pregnancy, COC	Common symptom	Site of metaplasia & CIN

■ KEY FACTS: Learning objectives

- Describe the histology of the cervix and the transformation zone.
- Describe the pathophysiology of cervical ectropion.
- Describe clinical features, exclusion of malignancy and management.

340.1 Cervical histology

Region	Epithelium
Ectocervix	Non-keratinised stratified squamous (glycogenated — Lugol's iodine stains brown)
Endocervix	Mucus-secreting simple columnar with crypts
Squamocolumnar junction (SCJ)	Position varies with age and hormones
Transformation zone (TZ)	Area between original and current SCJ where columnar epithelium has undergone squamous metaplasia — where >90% of CIN/cancer arises

340.2 Pathophysiology

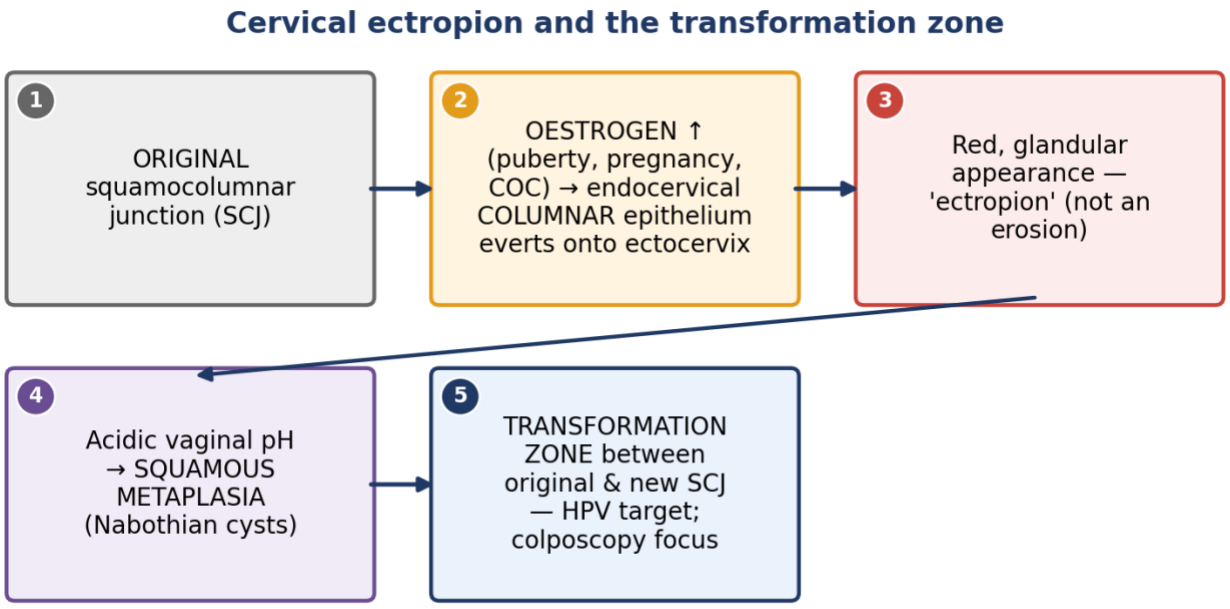


Figure 340.1 — Ectropion and the transformation zone

- Ectropion (**cervical eversion**) is a physiological, not pathological, finding — the term 'erosion' is incorrect (epithelium is intact).
- Nabothian follicles: mucus trapped in endocervical crypts covered by metaplastic squamous epithelium — benign.
- After menopause the SCJ recedes into the canal (colposcopy often type 3 TZ).

340.3 Clinical

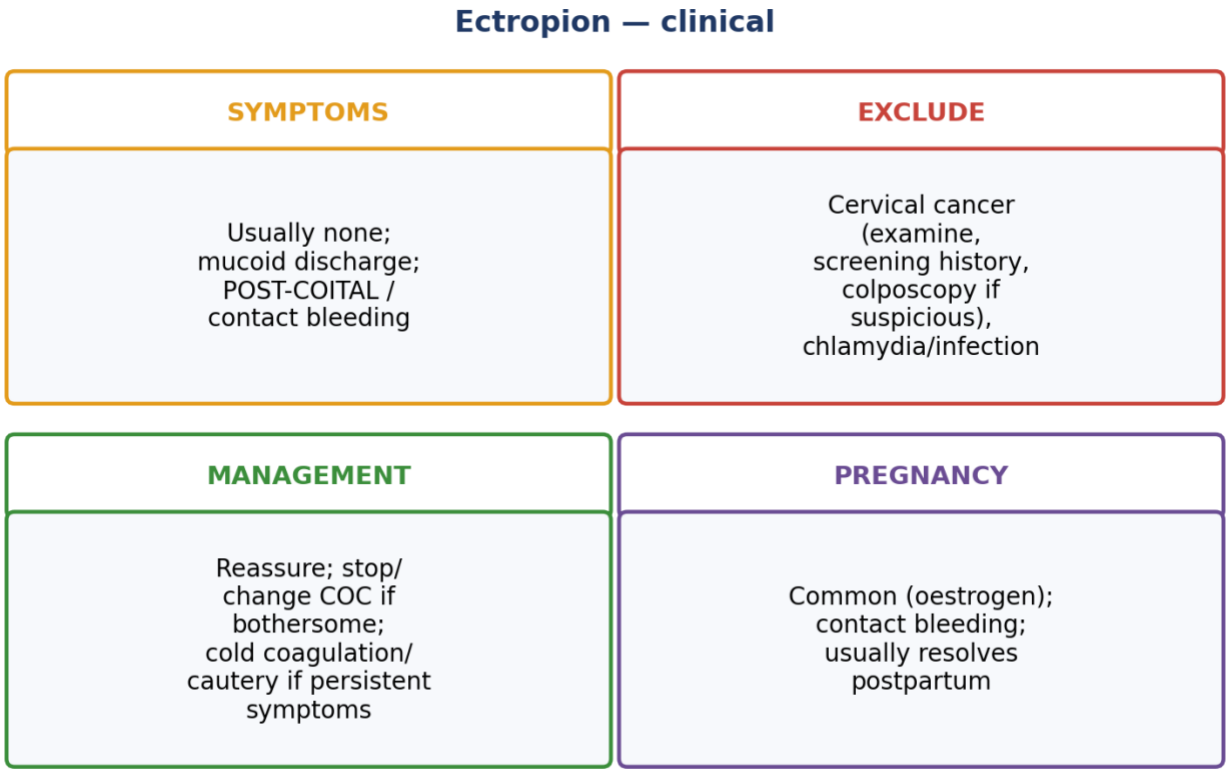


Figure 340.2 — Clinical approach

■ **RED FLAGS**

- **Post-coital bleeding**: examine the cervix, check screening history, test for chlamydia/gonorrhoea; refer for **colposcopy** if the cervix looks abnormal or bleeding persists — do not attribute to ectropion without excluding cancer (NICE NG12: suspicious cervix → urgent referral).

340.4 Must-know summary

■ **EXAM TIP**

- Ectocervix squamous; endocervix columnar; TZ = metaplastic zone → CIN/cancer.
- Ectropion = eversion of columnar epithelium due to oestrogen (puberty, pregnancy, COC).
- Mucoid discharge, PCB — exclude infection and cancer.
- Treat only if troublesome (stop COC, cold coagulation).

■ **MNEMONIC / MEMORY AID**

Ectropion causes — 'Puberty, Pregnancy, Pill'.