PIPADOR REVISION

MRCOG Part 1 Revision Notes

Vaginal Intraepithelial Neoplasia

PATHOLOGY • LECTURE 362

VISUAL EXAMINATION REVISION NOTES

2026 Edition

MRCOG PART 1 REVISION NOTES | PATHOLOGY

362 Vaginal Intraepithelial Neoplasia

Aetiology, pathology, diagnosis and management of VaIN

HPV	Upper third	Post-hysterectomy	Rare
Main cause	Commonest site	Vault lesions (previous CIN)	Much rarer than CIN

■ KEY FACTS: Learning objectives

- Describe the aetiology and pathology of vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN).
- Describe detection and diagnosis.
- Describe treatment options and follow-up.

362.1 Pathology

Vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN)

AETIOLOGY	SITE
HPV (16); often with/after CIN; immunosuppression, pelvic radiotherapy	UPPER THIRD; vault after hysterectomy for CIN
GRADES	**DETECTION**
VaIN 1 (LSIL) VaIN 2–3 (HSIL)	Abnormal vault cytology; colposcopy with acetic acid & LUGOL'S (iodine-negative areas)

Figure 362.1 — VaIN

- Same HPV-driven process as CIN; often part of a **multicentric lower genital tract neoplasia** (cervix, vagina, vulva, anus).
- After hysterectomy for CIN, women need vault cytology/HPV testing as per guidance because VaIN can arise at the vault or in vault suture-line recesses.
- Other risks: immunosuppression (transplant, HIV), smoking, previous pelvic radiotherapy (post-radiation changes may mimic VaIN).

362.2 Management

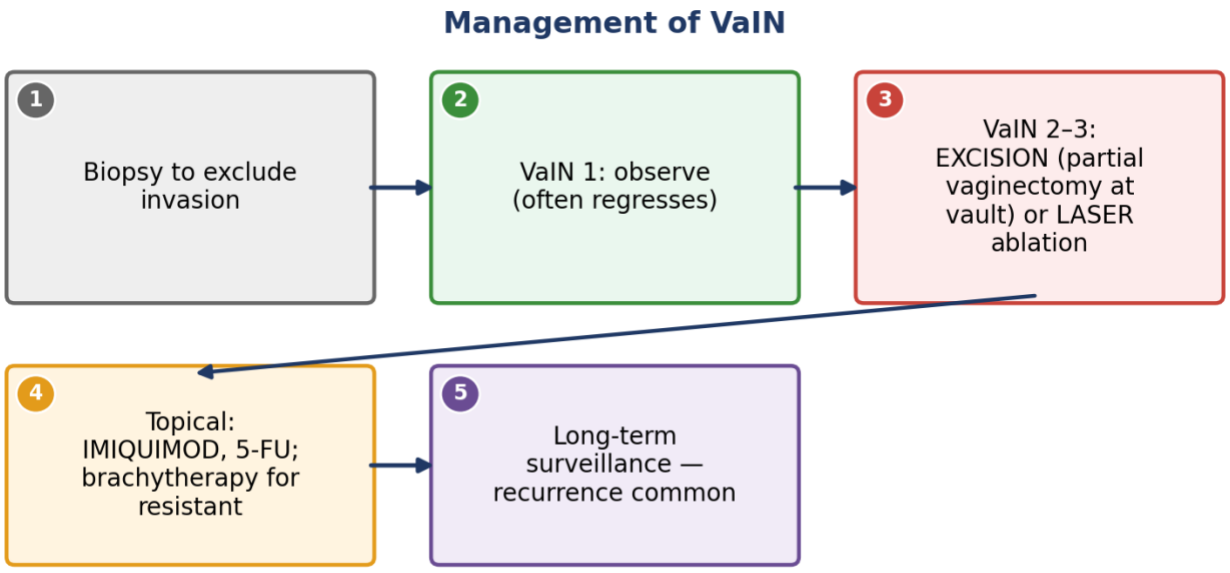


Figure 362.2 — Management of VaIN

- Biopsy is essential to exclude invasion before ablative or topical therapy.
- Excision is preferred for vault lesions (lesions may be buried above the suture line).
- Postmenopausal women: topical oestrogen before colposcopy improves assessment.
- Progression to invasive vaginal cancer ≈ 2–5% for high-grade disease; recurrence common — long-term follow-up.

362.3 Must-know summary

■ EXAM TIP

- HPV-associated; upper third/vault; often with CIN/VIN.
- Vault testing after hysterectomy for CIN.
- Colposcopy with acetic acid & Lugol's; biopsy to exclude invasion.
- Treatment: excision (partial vaginectomy), laser, imiquimod, 5-FU, brachytherapy.

■ MNEMONIC / MEMORY AID

VaIN — 'Vault, Virus (HPV), Very rare'.