

# Sexual health products



By **Leslie Morgan**  
Managing Director Durbin PLC.  
Leslie Morgan is a member of the Royal  
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

As in other areas of medicine, huge advances have been made in recent years in women's health.

With more investment in research there are now better methods for detecting and treating diseases like breast and ovarian cancer, and advances have also been made in contraception, child birth, and treating the symptoms of the menopause to name just a few. The wider subject of women's health is additionally now taken to include things such as heart disease (women with heart disease are more likely to die from it than men) and even rising obesity rates in young women.

Although Durbin supplies products covering all areas of women's health, the company has for some time now been particularly involved in the sexual health arena. Indeed, I'm proud to say that our flourishing Sexual Health Supplies division is unique in being able to offer all forms of reversible contraception to the UK healthcare market. Our International Sales division has similarly also been supplying sexual health prod-

ucts across the globe for many years.

Along with new drugs and improved treatments, advancements in sexual health are additionally being made with devices and technology and we now supply products such as the TT380 IUD – which has a 10 year life 'in-patient', and the IPAS Manual Vacuum Aspirator (MVA). Durbin is one of the international distributors for the latter, which is now being widely used for both endometrial biopsy and the treatment of incomplete miscarriage.

Like most men, I find it hard to imagine the trials and tribulations that menstruation can bring, and when the monthly pattern is disturbed even some women find it difficult to cope. For many women, heavy painful periods are routine and it is only when things get really bad that they seek medical help.

One of the procedures that doctors use to help diagnose these types of problems is Endometrial Biopsy – a process which involves taking a small sample of the lining of the uterus and examining it microscopically for abnormal cells. Previously the most common method for obtaining this type of sample was by curettage using a probe which has a small scoop or hook on the tip. The samples however would often be insufficient and thus unreliable for testing.

Obviously, the better the sample the better the diagnostic chances, and thus gynaecologists are increasingly recommending the use of the IPAS Endometrial Biopsy Kit featuring a Manual Vacuum

Aspirator for this type of procedure. Indeed the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, The World Bank, the International Confederation of Midwives and the International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics (FIGO) all agree that "Dilatation and curettage should be used only if MVA is not available." A reliable sample of course enables a lab to more accurately confirm if malignancy is present, thus allowing the consultant to point treatment in the right direction.

As I mentioned earlier, the IPAS MVA equipment is also increasingly now being used to treat incomplete miscarriage. It has a number of advantages for this type of procedure. It is ideally suited for use in an out-patient setting, thereby speeding up the process of treatment and saving on expensive theatre time; it can be used with a local anaesthetic taking away the need for an anaesthetist, and, it is totally silent thus helping to reduce patient anxiety. Not least, it is quick and inexpensive. Furthermore, it is an ideal back-up for when medical treatment fails.

The focus on and treatment of women's health has come a long way since I started out as a young pharmacist and I'm pleased that Durbin is doing its bit to promote health in all sectors. Naturally should any readers be interested in learning more about the IPAS MVA equipment for Endometrial Biopsy or incomplete miscarriage then I or one of my colleagues would be delighted to help. **MEH**

**Durbin PLC** is a British company based in South Harrow, London. Established in 1963, the company specialises in supplying quality assured pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and consumable supplies to healthcare professionals and aid agencies in over 180 countries. As well as reacting rapidly to emergency situations, Durbin PLC responds to healthcare supply needs from local project level to national scale programmes.  
Web address: [www.durbin.co.uk](http://www.durbin.co.uk)  
Email: [Lmorgan@durbin.co.uk](mailto:Lmorgan@durbin.co.uk)