

or adhesions. If surgery is performed, it is preferable to perform a cystectomy, removing the cyst wall and leaving the remaining ovary, in a reproductive-age woman. Combined hormonal contraceptives are recommended in women with a history of recurrent ovarian cyst formation. Surgical treatment may be required for *ectopic pregnancies* when the patient presents with acute pain, is hemodynamically unstable, or has signs of intraperitoneal bleeding. The choice of salpingectomy versus salpingostomy is based on patient's presentation, desire for future child bearing, and prior pelvic infections. Clinically stable women presenting with unruptured ectopic pregnancies may be appropriate for treatment with methotrexate, which is effective in ~90% of cases when multiple doses are used. Threatened abortion is managed conservatively even in the presence of a subchorionic hemorrhage. The treatment of endometritis is similar to PID. Pain from a degenerating fibroid, if visualized on pelvic sonography, can be managed with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN

Chronic pelvic pain is a complex condition resulting from gynecologic, urologic, or gastrointestinal organs and contributes to significant frustration and burden of disease. Common gynecologic conditions contributing to chronic pain are endometriosis, fibroids, adenomyosis, and adnexal pathology. Estimated prevalence rates range from 5 to 20% for cyclic and noncyclic pain. In addition to a detailed history and physical exam, the evaluation of chronic pelvic pain typically includes a pelvic ultrasound. As causes other than those related to the female reproductive system are common, referral should be made to other specialists, as appropriate. Neuromuscular and psychosomatic etiologies should also be considered.

Some women experience discomfort at the time of ovulation (*mittelschmerz* or *ovulation pain*). The pain can be quite intense but is generally of short duration. The mechanism is thought to involve rapid expansion of the dominant follicle, although it also may be