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“Uterine fibroid: from pathogenesis to clinical management”

Prof. Felice Petraglia, Editor-in-Chief of Human Reproduction Update, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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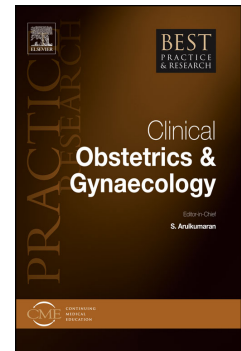
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## ***Preface***

### **“Uterine fibroid: from pathogenesis to clinical management”**

Uterine fibroid or leiomyoma is the most common benign gynecological tumor in premenopausal women (15-25%). Even though it is a well known clinical problem and deeply studied, the last decade was characterized by an incredible amount of novel information on the pathogenesis and by a concomitant increase of therapeutical proposals. For this reason the present issue aims to update the various biological and medical aspects related to uterine fibroid.

The hypothesis of stem cell generating leiomyoma, the role of epigenetic/cyrogenetic anomalies/mutations and the over expression of micro RNA are hot topic in exploring the increased cell proliferation and the excessive formation of extracellular matrix. The role of sex steroid hormones (estrogens, progesterone) still remains a key point in the pathogenesis of uterine leiomyoma, and, particularly, ERs and PRs have a role in development and maintenance of tumor growth, and new receptor modulators are attractive for the medical treatment of uterine fibroid. Estrogens and progesterone act via a large group of growth factors (in particular, the family of TGF $\beta$ ), which, activating multiple signaling pathways, regulate major cellular processes,

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