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AGE, MENOPAUSAL STATUS AND THE BLADDER MICROBIOME

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Abstract

Objectives: The bladder is not sterile but contains a healthy community of microbes termed the microbiome. Alterations in the bladder microbiome have been demonstrated in disease states such as the overactive bladder. The microbiome in other anatomical niches is known to alter with age eg the vagina. The objective of this study was to identify if the bladder microbiome in healthy women varies with age and menopausal status.

Study design: Urine from 79 healthy women attending secondary care gynaecological clinics with no urinary symptoms provided clean catch mid-stream urine specimens. Urine was