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| Corresponding Author: | Eric Jauniaux, MD, PhD, FRCOG  
Royal Free and University College London  
London, UNITED KINGDOM |
| First Author: | Eric Jauniaux, MD, PhD, FRCOG |
| Order of Authors: | Eric Jauniaux, MD, PhD, FRCOG  
Ahmed M Hussein, MD |
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Placenta accreta spectrum grading: The devil is in the histopathology details

Eric Jauniaux, MD, PhD; Ahmed M Hussein, MD

From the EGA Institute for Women’s Health, Faculty of Population Health Sciences, University College London (UCL), London, UK (Dr Jauniaux); the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt (Dr Hussein).

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Corresponding author: Eric Jauniaux, MD, PhD, FRCOG
Institute for Women’s Health, University College London, 86-96 Chenies Mews, London WC1E 6HX, UK.

E.jauniaux@ucl.ac.uk

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We thank Palacios-Jaraquemada and D’Antonio for their interest in our work in general and our contribution to the Federation International of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) classification on placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) in particular. The FIGO classification development is a dynamic process which evolves with time. It is based on a consensus resulting from the review of evidence-based data modulated by the results of extensive literature reviews by a group of international experts under the umbrella of the committee. As past member of FIGO Working Group on Labor and Delivery, Prof Palacios-Jaraquemada should be aware of this process which is used for all other FIGO classifications and which the FIGO revised regularly.

Palacios-Jaraquemada and D’Antonio describe cases that combined both PAS grade 1 and 3. The fact that different grades of PAS can co-exist in the same specimen is well-known and was first described by Luke et al in 1966\textsuperscript{1}. In those cases, the deepest level of invasion should be used to classify them. Another long-established fact is that placentation into uterine scars can be associated with extravillous trophoblastic cells invading abnormally deeply inside the uterine wall with secondary transformation of the radial and/or arcuate arteries leading to massive obstetric hemorrhage during delivery, if the operator is unaware of the situation. This is without any doubt, the main concern in the management of invasive PAS and will almost always be associated with high maternal morbidity and some mortality independently of the location and extension of the invasive area.

Overall, the main issue in evaluating data from cohort studies on prenatal diagnosis and management of PAS, is the lack of detailed pathologic confirmation and differential diagnosis between adherent and invasive grades. In a recent systematic review and meta-analysis\textsuperscript{2}, we found large amounts of heterogeneity
between population studies for prevalence, incidence of peripartum hysterectomy and distribution of the different grades of PAS due to inconsistency with regards to the criteria used to diagnose and confirm the condition at birth. Our study on the clinic-pathologic correlations in invasive PAS, is the first to have prospectively correlated prenatal ultrasound signs, with intra-operative findings, immediate post-operative gross features and detailed histopathologic findings. This approach can be used in case of conservative management. An expert panel has recently proposed a classification and reporting guidelines for the pathology diagnosis of PAS, which should provide authors of future publication with a standardised approach across the spectrum of PAS specimens.
References


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Corresponding author: Eric Jeanloup

Authors may either sign the same form or submit individually

I am an author on this submission, have adhered to all editorial policies for submission as described in the Information for Authors, attest to having met all authorship criteria, and all potential conflicts of interest / financial disclosures appears on the title page of the submission.

Signatures are required - typed signatures are unacceptable.

Typed or CLEARLY printed Name: Eric Jeanloup

Signature:

Typed or CLEARLY printed Name: Ahmed M Hussein

Signature: Ahmed Hussein