Endometriosis is a chronic disease, very common among women in reproductive age. This condition can occur also among adolescent and after menopause. The knowledge about real epidemiology of endometriosis will facilitate the diagnostic process.

Objectives: to assess occurrence of endometriosis and to establish risk factors among women diagnosed laparoscopically for infertility or pelvic pain.

Material and methods: 103 women diagnosed consecutively in our department due to pelvic pain syndrome, suspicion of endometriosis or infertility. The diagnosis of endometriosis was established using rASRM 1996 classification (The Revised American Society for Reproductive Medicine classification of endometriosis). Data were collected from questionnaires with closed questions. Patients were divided in two groups: study group - women with endometriosis, control group - women without this condition.

Statistical analysis was conducted in Statistica 7.0.

Results:
Among 103 patients endometriosis was confirmed in 68.9% women. Familial occurrence was established in 7% of women. Patients with endometriosis significantly more frequent complained on dysmenorrhoea and significantly more often were taking oral analgesics during periods compared with patients without endometriosis. Substantial difference between groups was also observed for barrier contraceptive methods. There was no significant difference in taking oral contraceptives, coffee drinking, smoking and co-morbidities between study and control group.

Conclusions: Women with endometriosis have a higher risk of painful menstruations and side effects of analgetics used to reduce pain. There is a need to re-evaluate the diagnosis of functional disorders of a gastrointestinal- and urinary tract after proper diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.