

Did you know that many people with endometriosis (endo) also live with other medical and psychiatric conditions (also known as comorbidities)?

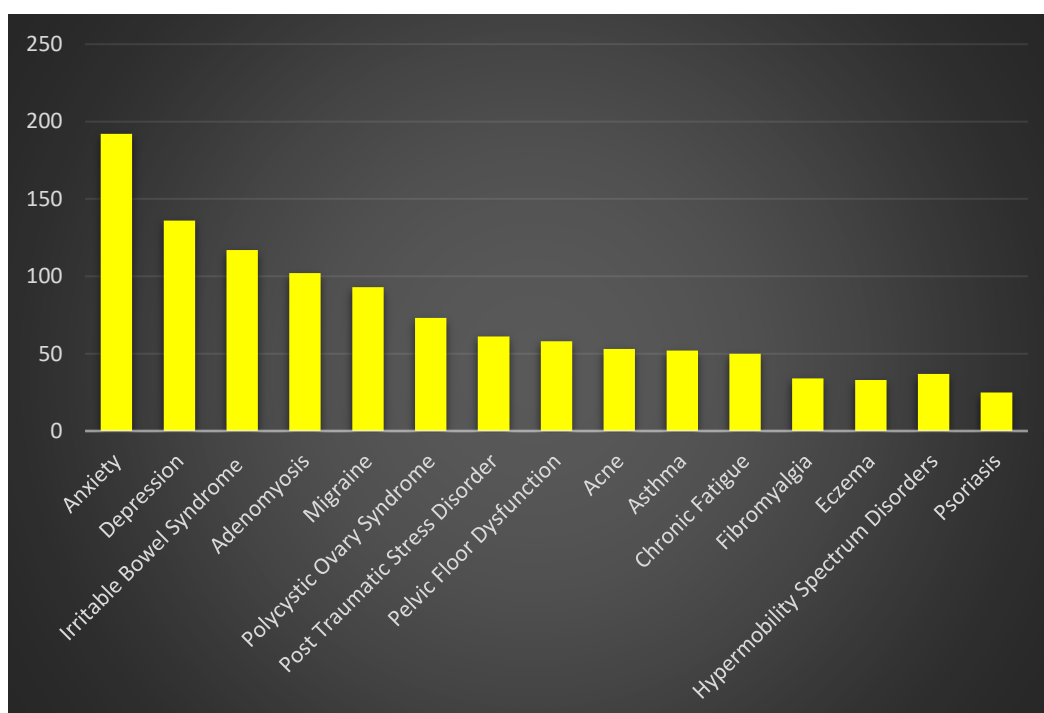
Those who follow this page will know that there is increasing awareness and understanding of what endometriosis is. Unfortunately, we are yet to understand how endo forms, and what it can do to a person who develops it. Understanding common comorbidities can help us shed light on both of these areas.

Studies have shown higher rates of immunological disease in patients with endo than the general population; including diseases such as psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, and possibly even allergies such as asthma and eczema. This has led researchers to consider whether the immune system plays a role in the development of endo; or even if endo itself can have an effect on the immune system. Gastrointestinal diseases such as irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease are also seen frequently in endo patients. Again, why this occurs is unclear. It could be because they share the same area of the body so the inflammation and hormone changes of endo tissue affects the bowel; it could be related to long term treatment with hormones; or it could be tied in to the same immunological changes.

One thing that any person with endo will tell you is that the disease frequently affects their mood. Rates of depression and anxiety in people with endo have been observed at up to 50% in some studies. And unfortunately, endo sometimes likes to come with a friend; other gynaecological conditions are also more common, such as adenomyosis and ovarian cysts.

Earlier in the year people in our support group shared which other conditions they have been diagnosed with. Over 200 of our members commonly reported the conditions displayed below. Over 70 different conditions were reported, most of them “invisible” illnesses.

Don’t forget that some people are fighting unseen battles with their bodies, and as you can see here, some people are fighting more than one!



References

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Disclaimer: These findings are from a small scale poll performed within a closed facebook support group for the purpose of identifying common comorbidities requiring support. These findings are not to be extrapolated, and have not undergone ethics testing.