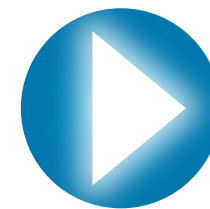




Straight to the Point: Talking IUC

Step-by-step guidance to addressing
concerns with intrauterine contraception



The INTRA group

- **INTRA group:** Intrauterine coNtraception: **T**ranslating **R**esearch into **A**ction
 - A panel of independent physicians with expert interest in intrauterine contraception
 - **Purpose:** To encourage more widespread use of IUC methods in a broad range of women through medical education

Group members



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- Formation of the INTRA group and its ongoing work is supported by Bayer Pharma



- Despite the availability of an extensive range of contraceptive options, a high number of pregnancies are unplanned¹
- IUC is a highly effective method of contraception^{2,3}
- In 95% of women it can be placed easily and successfully,⁴⁻⁷ and risk of complications is low^{7,8}
- However, concerns around placement and potential complications prevent some HCPs from recommending IUC⁹
- The INTRA group provides step-by-step guidance to address these concerns
- For help in addressing your particular concern, click on the appropriate icon

Difficult placement

No threads visible

Bleeding

Pain

Infection

Perforation



Difficult placement

Perforation at time of insertion (with sound)

Return for placement with ultrasound (in 2-3 weeks if patient still motivated to use IUC)

Failed attempt

Severe pain

Counsel and reassure patient extensively for another attempt at placement

Pain

Ultrasound guidance

- Ensure no creation of false passage
- Metal sound easy to see on abdominal ultrasound in non-obese women
- A low position in the uterus i.e. not at the fundus, is not generally a concern (as long it is not in the cervical canal) but back-up contraception and a re-scan in 2-4 weeks to check if migrated into optimal position may provide reassurance

- Misoprostol
- Place during menses

Mechanical help

- Os finder or cytobrush
- Sterilized or one way Hegar (or Pipelle) to identify path of endocervical canal
- Adequate traction with tenaculum
- Repositioning of tenaculum (to get round 'kinks' or 'lip' in cervical canal)
- Small 5 mm Denniston dilator to achieve greater dilation

Correlate bimanual exam with uterus sounding



Additional information

CLOSE

Ease of insertion: myth versus reality

- **Myth:** It is very difficult/impossible to insert IUC in nulliparous women
- **Reality:** In the vast majority of women, IUC is inserted with ease regardless of parity⁴⁻⁶

Reference	Country	Sample size and composition	% of LNG-IUS placements rated as 'easy'	% of successful LNG-IUS placements
Marions <i>et al</i> , 2011 ⁴	Sweden	224 nulliparous women	72%	97.4%
Suhonen <i>et al</i> , 2004 ⁵	Finland and Sweden	94 nulliparous women	85%	97.9%
Bahamondes <i>et al</i> , 2011 ⁶	Brazil	159 nulligravid women	81%	99.4%

into optimal position may provide reassurance

References

Disclaimer: Please note that these statements and practical recommendations are based on the INTRA group's expert opinion, and therefore may not be in line with the labelling information of intrauterine contraceptive devices in your country

No threads visible

- Use cytobrush to retrieve threads
- Palpate

Unable to confirm IUC with cytobrush

No immediate access to ultrasound

Immediate access to ultrasound

Check pregnancy test

Unable to confirm IUC with cytobrush or ultrasound and negative pregnancy test

Negative test

Positive test

Abdominal/pelvic X-ray (or schedule and counsel on other contraceptive options and consider EC if indicated)

Schedule ultrasound
Counsel on other contraceptive options and consider EC if indicated

Unable to confirm IUC

IUC in abdomen

No IUC seen

Recommend surgical management

Assume expulsion

Contraceptive counselling

Able to confirm IUC

Low position in uterus

Position at the fundus

Remove if embedded in myometrium

Reassure

If Cu-IUD:

- Counsel patient on pregnancy risk if Cu-IUD does not move into position
- Check position at 3 months if needed

If LNG-IUS:

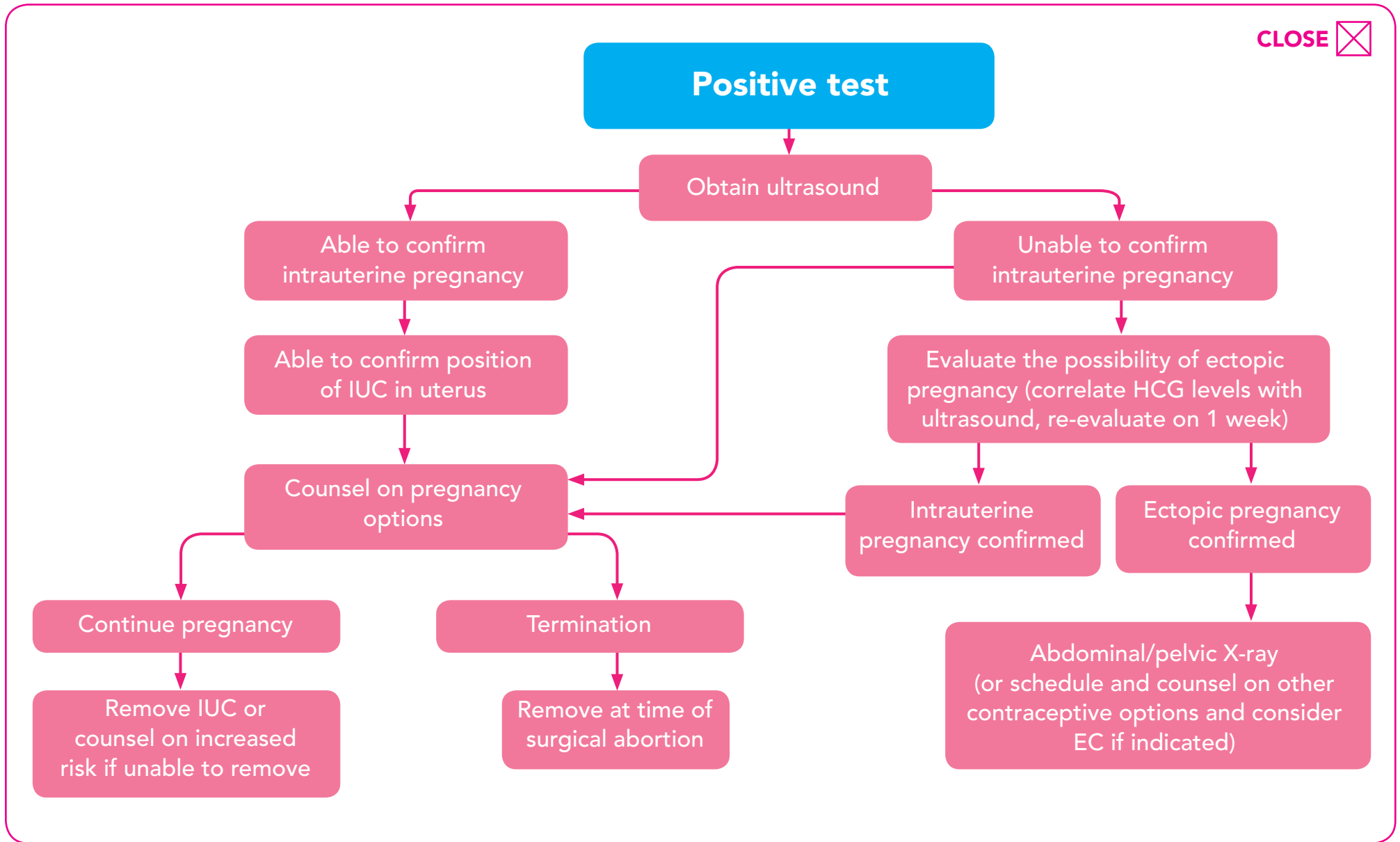
- Reassure patient that the low position will not impact on efficacy⁷

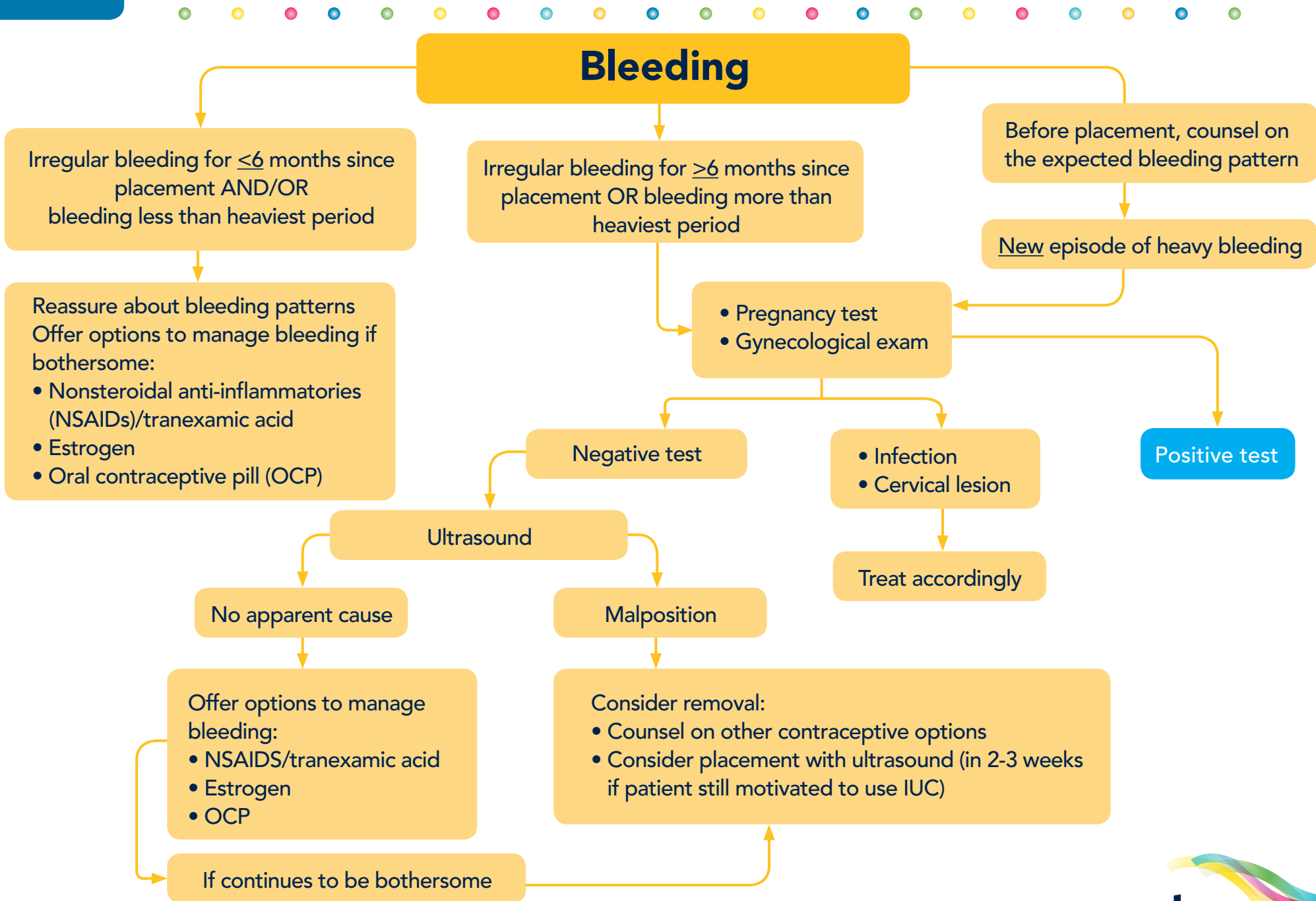
If patient requests IUC removal:

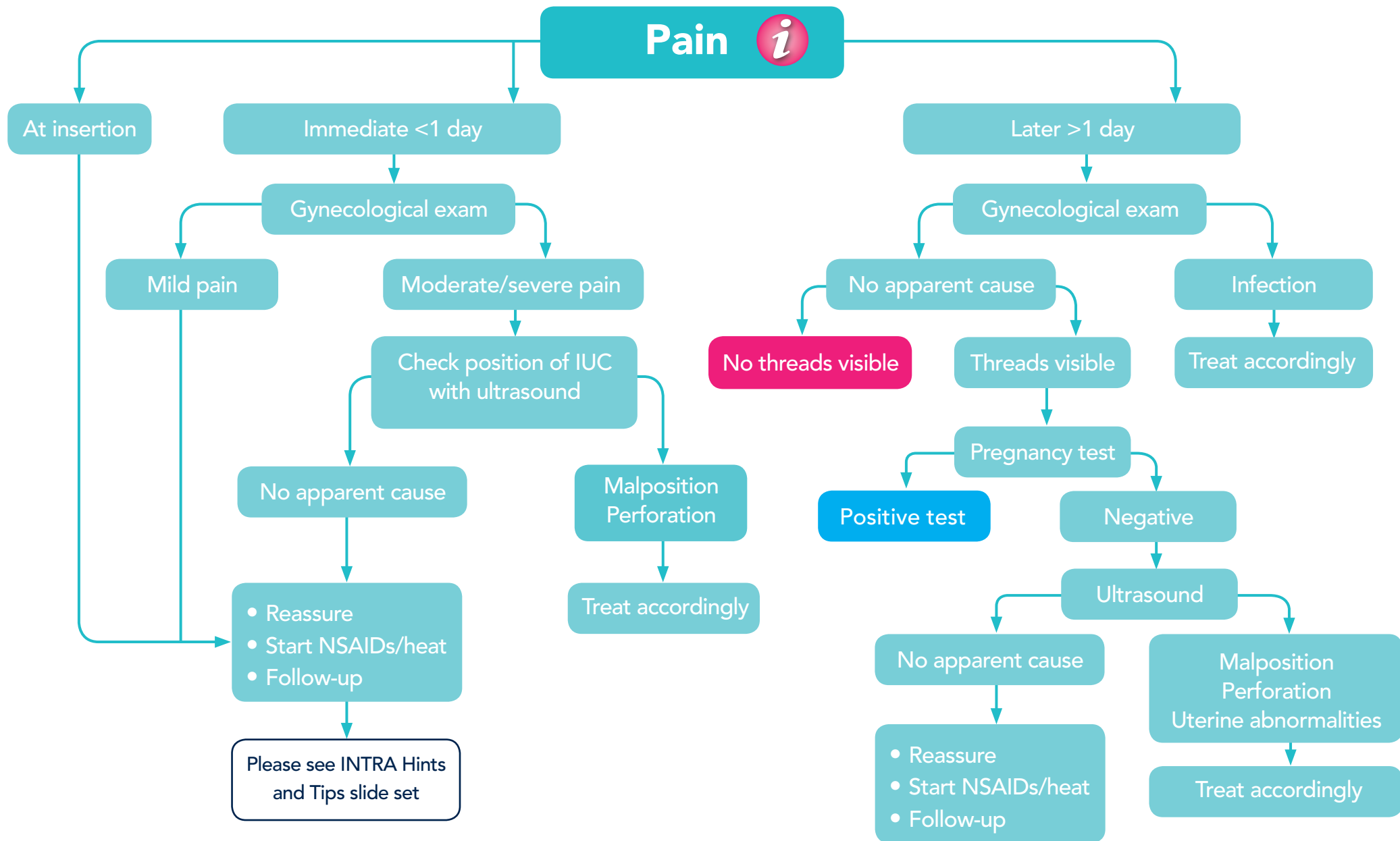
- Use cytobrush, palpation, IUS hook, and packing forceps

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Difficult placement

No threads visible

Bleeding

Pain

Infection

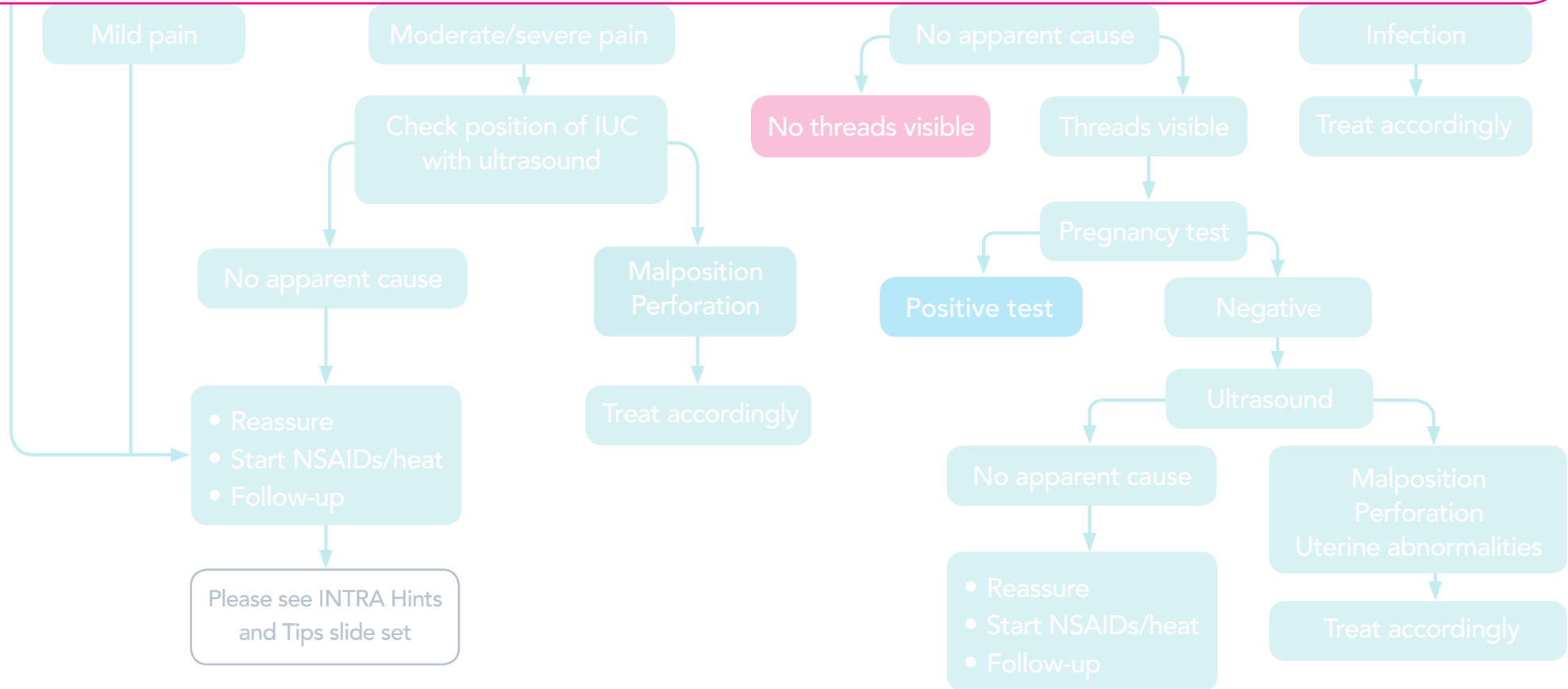
Perforation

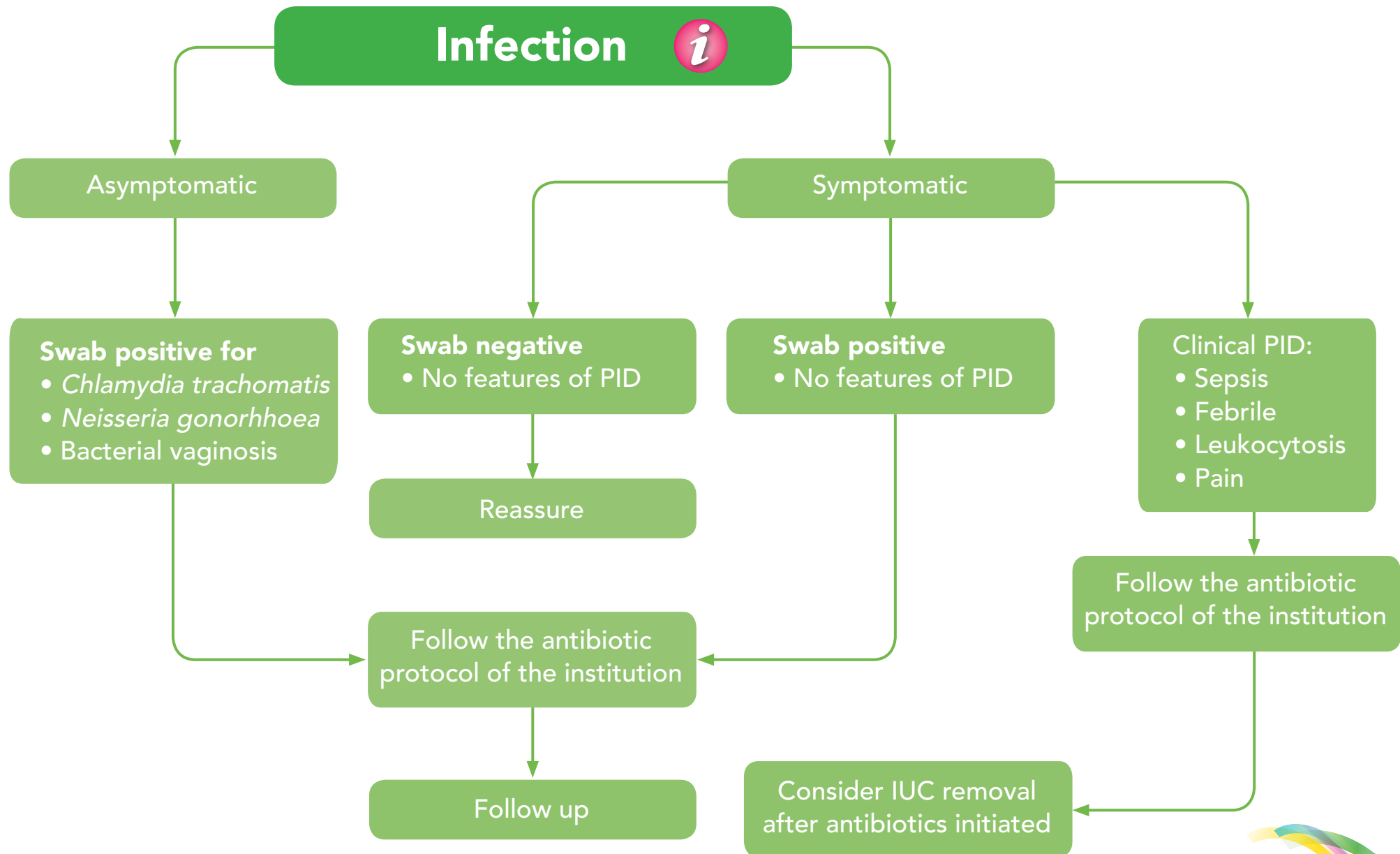
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 **Additional information**CLOSE 

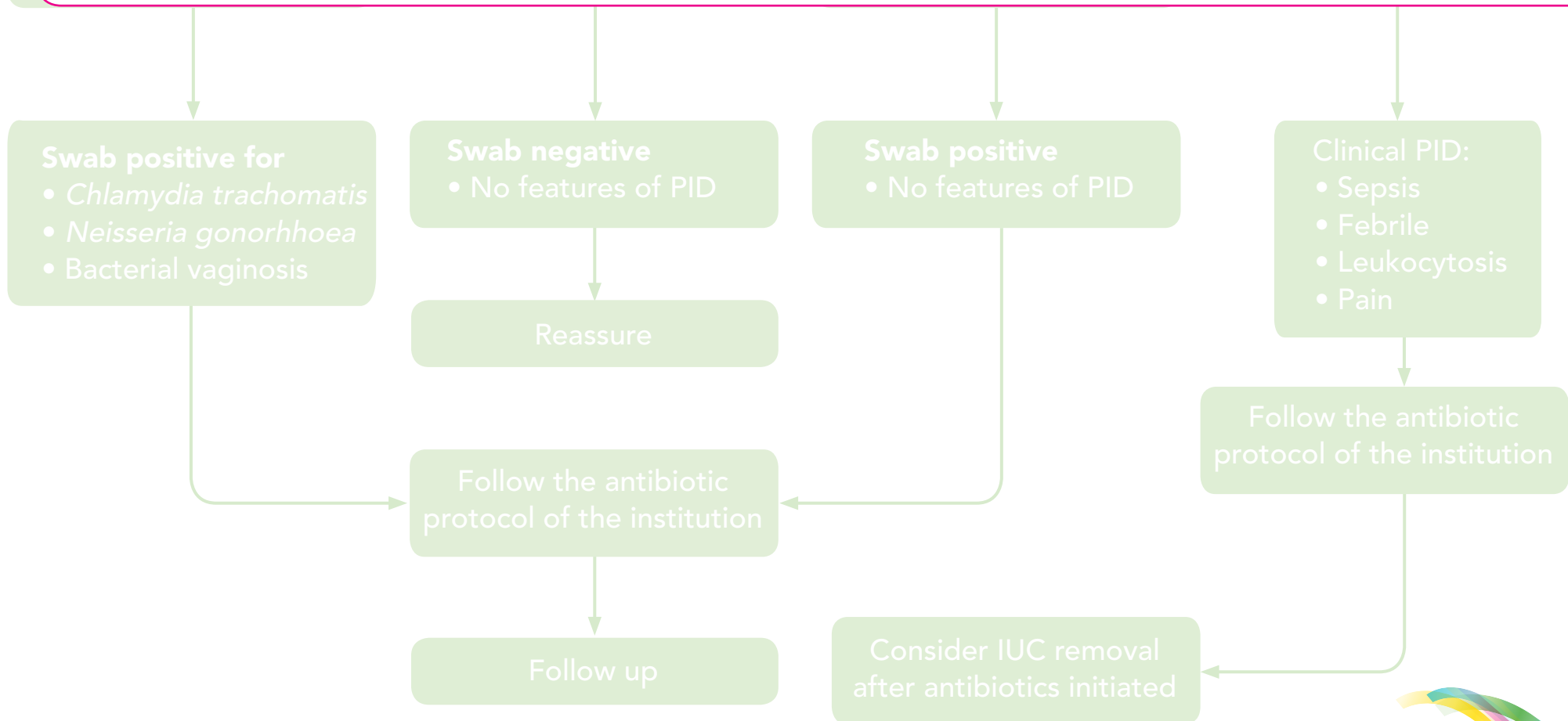
Amongst adolescent nulliparous and parous women, 20% experience no pain and 70% describe the pain as mild or moderate¹⁰





Additional information CLOSE

Studies involving women of all ages, parity and risk of sexually transmitted infection (STI) show that the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) with IUC use is low (< 1%).^{7, 11-13}



Suspected perforation

Perforation with the sound

No IUC
placement attempt

Conservative management
and reassurance

Consider placement with
ultrasound (in 2-3 weeks
if patient still motivated
to use IUC)

Perforation with the IUC

Strings visible:
Remove immediately

Strings not visible:
Confirm position with pelvic
ultrasound or X-ray

Able to confirm position

Unable to confirm position

Carry out diagnostic hysteroscopy or
diagnostic laparoscopy

Recommend surgical management

Consider laparoscopic or hysteroscopic removal

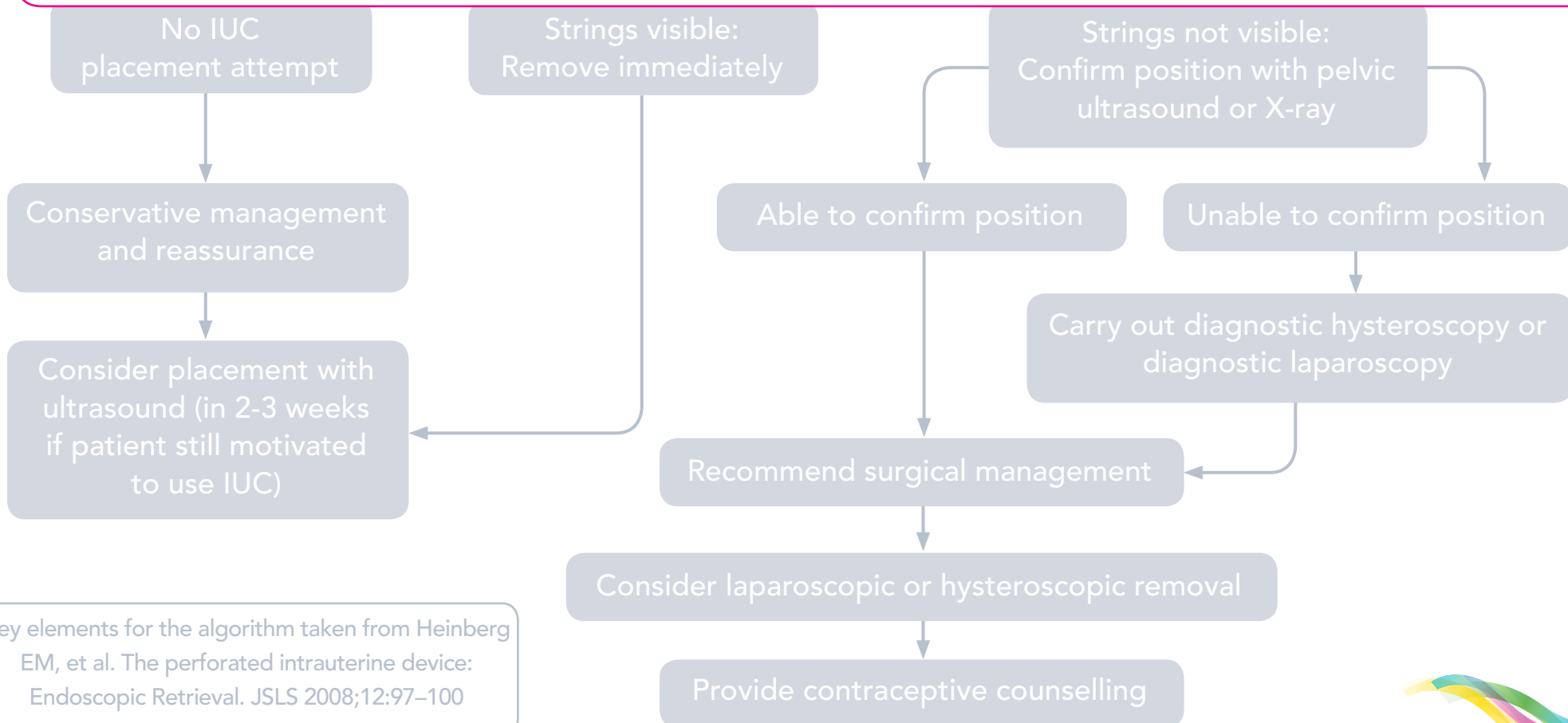
Provide contraceptive counselling

Key elements for the algorithm taken from Heinberg
EM, et al. The perforated intrauterine device:
Endoscopic Retrieval. JSL 2008;12:97-100

Additional information

CLOSE 

EURAS-IUD shows a low risk of uterine perforation with IUC within the total patient population, incidence of perforation was ~1/1,000 placements.⁸



Key elements for the algorithm taken from Heinberg EM, et al. The perforated intrauterine device: Endoscopic Retrieval. JSL 2008;12:97-100

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