



## **CURRENT ISSVD TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION OF VULVAR DISEASES**

### **VULVAR SQUAMOUS INTRAEPITHELIAL LESIONS – Last updated January 23, 2016**

The purpose of this classification is to differentiate between the various types of intraepithelial lesions of the vulva.

#### **2015 ISSVD TERMINOLOGY OF VULVAR SQUAMOUS INTRAEPITHELIAL LESIONS**

The ISSVD has been among the leaders in producing terminologies of preneoplastic vulvar lesions. In 2012, the ISSVD participated in the introduction of the Lower Anogenital Squamous Terminology (LAST) which aimed to standardize terminology for HPV related lesions in the entire lower anogenital tract. It recommends the terms low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) and high-grade SIL (HSIL) for histopathologic diagnoses of HPV infections. However, in relation to vulvar lesions, the following concerns were raised: firstly, the absence of reference to “differentiated vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia” (differentiated VIN) could lead to its being overlooked by health care providers, despite its malignant potential. Secondly, including the term “low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion” (LSIL) in LAST recreated the potential for over diagnosis and overtreatment for benign, self-limiting lesions. The advantage of the 2015 terminology is that it includes all types of vulvar SILs, and it provides a solution to the concerns in relation to the application of LAST to vulvar lesion,. In addition, it is in accordance with the World Health Organization classification as well as the LAST, creating unity among clinicians and pathologists.

- **LSIL of the vulva (vulvar LSIL; flat condyloma, or HPV effect)**
- **HSIL of the vulva (vulvar HSIL; VIN usual type)**
- **DVIN**

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SIL - squamous intraepithelial lesion;

LSIL - low-grade SIL;

HSIL - high-grade SIL;

VIN – vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia;

DVIN - differentiated-type VIN.

#### Reference

Bornstein J, Bogliatto F, Haefner HK, Stockdale C, Preti M, Bohl TG, Reutter J, for the ISSVD Terminology Committee. The 2015 International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease (ISSVD) Terminology of Vulvar Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions. *J Lower Gen Tract Dis* 2016;20: 11–14.

Co-Published in *Obstet Gynecol* 2016;127:264–8