

## **The role of ovarian cautery in 2017.**

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What we know today as Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) was initially defined as Stein-Leventhal Syndrome. This is because the condition was first described by these two gynaecologists in 1935 (Stein and Leventhal 1935).

Not only did they define the condition, but they also suggested a treatment, surgical bilateral wedge resection of the ovaries (BWRO) (Stein et al 1948). This was the only treatment for anovulation associated with PCOS. However, with the availability of clomiphene citrate in 1961 (Greenblatt 1961), the surgical treatment was replaced by medical treatment. In 1984 surgical treatment again became an option yet again when Gjoannes showed laparoscopic ovarian cautery was successful in inducing ovulation. There was no need for ongoing monitoring, and multiple pregnancies did not result. So where does the evidence lie in 2017? Is surgical or medical treatment best?

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