Androgen excess affects up to 5% of women of reproductive age.

Why is recognition of androgen excess important?

- Women with hirsutism caused by androgen excess experience high levels of psychosocial distress.
- Depression and anxiety are well-known to negatively impact on quality of life.
- Hyperandrogenic symptoms are often accompanied by signs such as acne and increased sensitivity of the pilosebaceous unit to androgens.

HYPERANDROGENISM CLINICAL BIOCHEMICAL OR BOTH

Androgen excess can be clinical, biochemical or both.

Women in whom further investigations reveal:
- Palpable abdominal or pelvic mass
- Obvious signs of virilisation
- Sudden, rapid onset of hair growth
- Infertility

Red flags:
- Women with clinical features of androgen-secreting tumors or evidence of malignancy
- Women with irregular bleeding and evidence of malignancy

Women with hirsutism caused by androgen excess experience high levels of psychosocial distress.

What are the signs and symptoms of androgen excess?

- Women can present with a combination of different symptoms:
  - Increased sensitivity of the pilosebaceous unit to androgens
  - Increased androgen levels
  - Skin symptoms such as acne

Androgen excess can be linked to long-term medical problems, particularly in women with polycystic ovary syndrome.

Hyperandrogenic reproductive age group and its ongoing work is supported by Bayer AG.

References: