Commentary on "Menstrually Related Disorders: Points of Consensus, Debate, and Disagreement"

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I have difficulty understanding what is meant by the term "Menstrually Related Disorders" and that confusion is not enlightened by the body of the paper. To group together "the variety of conditions whose timing appears to be related to the menstrual cycle" is artificial if timing is all that these conditions, whatever they are, have in common. The author(s) go on then to discuss the term "Premenstrual syndrome" that has a variety of definitions and no consistency. How can a discussion of categorization be made before a definition of the entity(ies)?

Later in the paper reference is made to "an overall diagnosis be developed for all MRDs across the various body systems." It is a novel idea to link together conditions related by nothing except the observation that they appear to occur or exacerbate with menses. Even the observation is not substantial in many instances. Unless a true causal linkage to the menstrual cycle can be shown and a common etiology established this proposal is premature and curious.

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