

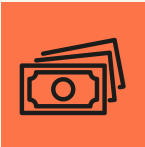


# Flying Blind

## Endometriosis

**Endometriosis** is a chronic estrogen-dependent gynaecologic disease characterised by the presence of endometrial-like tissue outside the uterus, primarily on pelvic organs (e.g. ovaries, pelvic surfaces and ligaments, bowel or bladder). This causes painful symptoms such as pelvic pain, painful periods (dysmenorrhea), painful sex (dyspareunia), painful urination (dysuria), and other symptoms such as diarrhoea and infertility, among others.

▶ Endometriosis is estimated to affect up to 10% of women globally, with over 70% of patients living with unresolved pain. The condition also leads to fertility issues, with at least 30% of women encountering difficulties conceiving.



2023 global funding for LMIC-applicable R&D for endometriosis was \$28m



Funding remains very low: diabetes, which has a similar prevalence, received \$1.2b in R&D funding the same year from the US NIH alone



59% of funding goes to basic research, highlighting our limited understanding of the condition, its causes and progression



The medicines pipeline (drugs & biologics) includes 80 candidates in development, of which 46 are repurposed medicines and 34 are new chemical entities

90%

of funding is provided by the US National Institutes of Health

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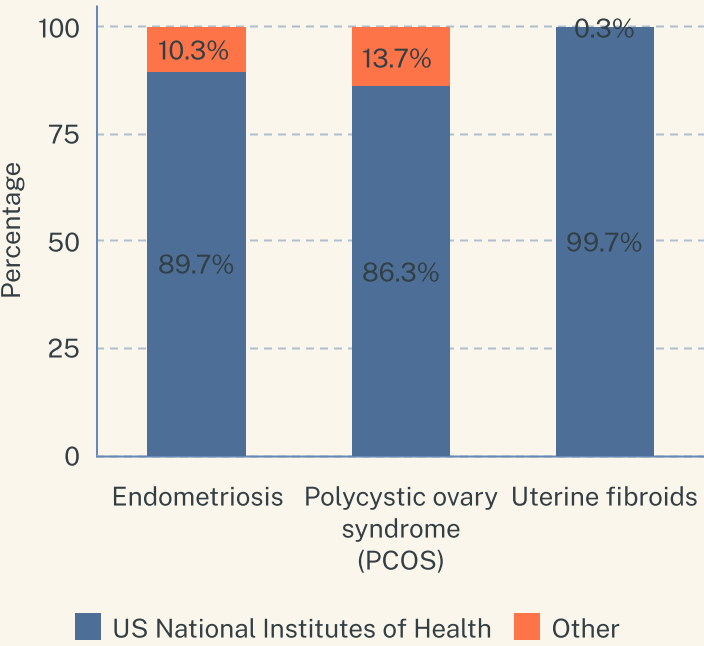
diagnostic available

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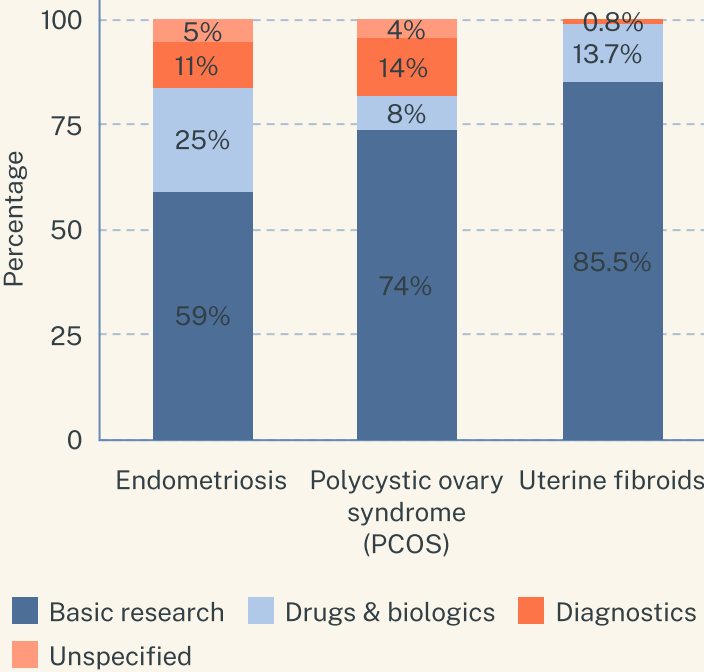
industry investment reported

	Drugs	Biologics	Devices	Diagnostics	Total
Available products	27	0	3	1	31
Pipeline candidates	67	13	8	14	102

Proportion of US NIH funding by condition (2023)



Proportion of R&D funding by research/product type and by condition (2023)



### Key takeaways

- **Underfunded and neglected:** endometriosis, like PCOS and uterine fibroids, has suffered from decades of neglect and underinvestment in medical research, largely due to institutional and gender biases in healthcare.
- **Slow progress:** while most R&D is still focused on basic research, endometriosis has seen relatively more progress, with more funding and a more innovative and advanced pipeline, compared to the other two conditions.
- **Limited diagnostics and therapeutics:** current diagnostics are invasive or inaccessible, and treatments are mainly repurposed hormonal or pain medications that manage symptoms but fail to address underlying causes.
- **Potential for change:** recent increases in funding and advocacy, particularly from the FemTech sector, highlight that even modest investments can lead to meaningful advancements, making endometriosis a potential model for progress in women's health R&D