

	Phase A	Phase B	Phase C	Phase D	Phase E
Duration	2-6 mo	2-6mo	1-2yr	1-2yr	1yr
Cycles	Regular, ovulatory shorter cycles, short follicular phases	Regular, often ovulatory disturbances	Irregular, alternate short and long cycles, ovulation less than 50%	Oligomenorrhea, rare ovulation	Amenorrhea
Flow	Increased or the same	Increased	↑↑ or less, often alternating	Spotting alternating with flooding	None
Symptoms	↑PMS, ↑dysmenorrhea, breast symptoms, exacerbation of headaches and migraines	↑↑PMS, intermittent dysmenorrhea	Less PMS but erratic, menstrual-type cramps may occur any time	No predictable symptoms, menstrual-like cramps in a few women, anytime	Few or confusing without subsequent flow
Flashes	First onset, cyclic before flow or midcycle (very often in the early morning)	Cyclic still during or at the end of sleep	Still cyclic, but less predictable, onset in daytime	Erratic, more persistent in long cycles	May become consistent daily, or decrease
Hormones	Normal FSH, ↑E ₂ short follicular phases, LH normal, inhibin low(?)	↑FSH intermittent, ↑E ₂ at flow for some nonovulatory cycles, LH normal, inhibin low(?)	Normal alternating with high E ₂ , ↑FSH persistently, ↑LH occasionally, inhibin low(?)	↑FSH, ↑LH, E ₂ normal except intermittent prolonged high levels, inhibin low	↑↑FSH, ↑↑LH, Normal or low E ₂ , but intermittent low or high levels, below inhibin assay sensitivity