Genital Itch is the most common presenting symptom of numerous conditions and thus requires a systematic approach to establish the correct diagnosis.

**Introduction**

**Causes Genital itching**

**INFECTIONS**
- **FUNGAL:** Dermatophytosis, Candidiasis
- **BACTERIAL:** Bacterial vaginosis
- **VIRAL:** Genital warts
- **PARASITES:** Pinworm, Trichomoniasis
- **MITE:** Sadies, Pediculosis pubis

**NON INFECTIOUS**
- Irritant Contact Dermatitis
- Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Lichen Sclerosus
- Lichen Planus
- Psoriasis
- Fox Fordyce disease
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Behcet’s disease
- Crohn’s disease
- Aphthous ulcers
- Vulvovaginal atrophy
- Zoon vulvitis

**PRURITIC NEUROPATHY**
- Leads to Lichen Simplex Chronicus
- Caused by Injury, Surgery or local lesions either in pelvis/spine causing pudendal nerve entrapment

**NEOPLASIA**
- Vulval Intraepithelial Neoplasia
- Extrammary Paget’s disease
- Invasive Vulval carcinoma (SCC)

**PSYCHOGENIC**
- Associated Lichen Simplex Chronicus or PRURIGO NODULARIS

**Bathing/Hygiene Habits**
- Frequency, water temperature

**Product use in genital area**
- Douches, spray, washes

**Continence Problems**
- Urine leakage, fistulas

**Clothing**
- Tight fitting pants or underwear

**Laundry practices**
- Detergents, bleaches, dyes

**Non genital skin conditions**
- Dry skin, eczema, psoriasis, rosacea

**Medical conditions**
- Diabetes, immunosuppressant

**General measure to prevent it**

- Practicing good hygiene
- Breaking itch scratch cycle: Cut finger nails short temporarily.
- Genital bathing habits
- Avoiding scented soaps and other products that may cause irritation
- Clothing: Wear dry plain cotton underwear
- Avoid Laundry products

**Conclusion**

Pruritis vulvae is the most disturbing symptom affecting females of all age group. Causes can vary from simple infections to carcinomas.

Appropriate diagnostic tests to be conducted and biopsy is done only when required. Complete treatment and regular follow up has to be done.