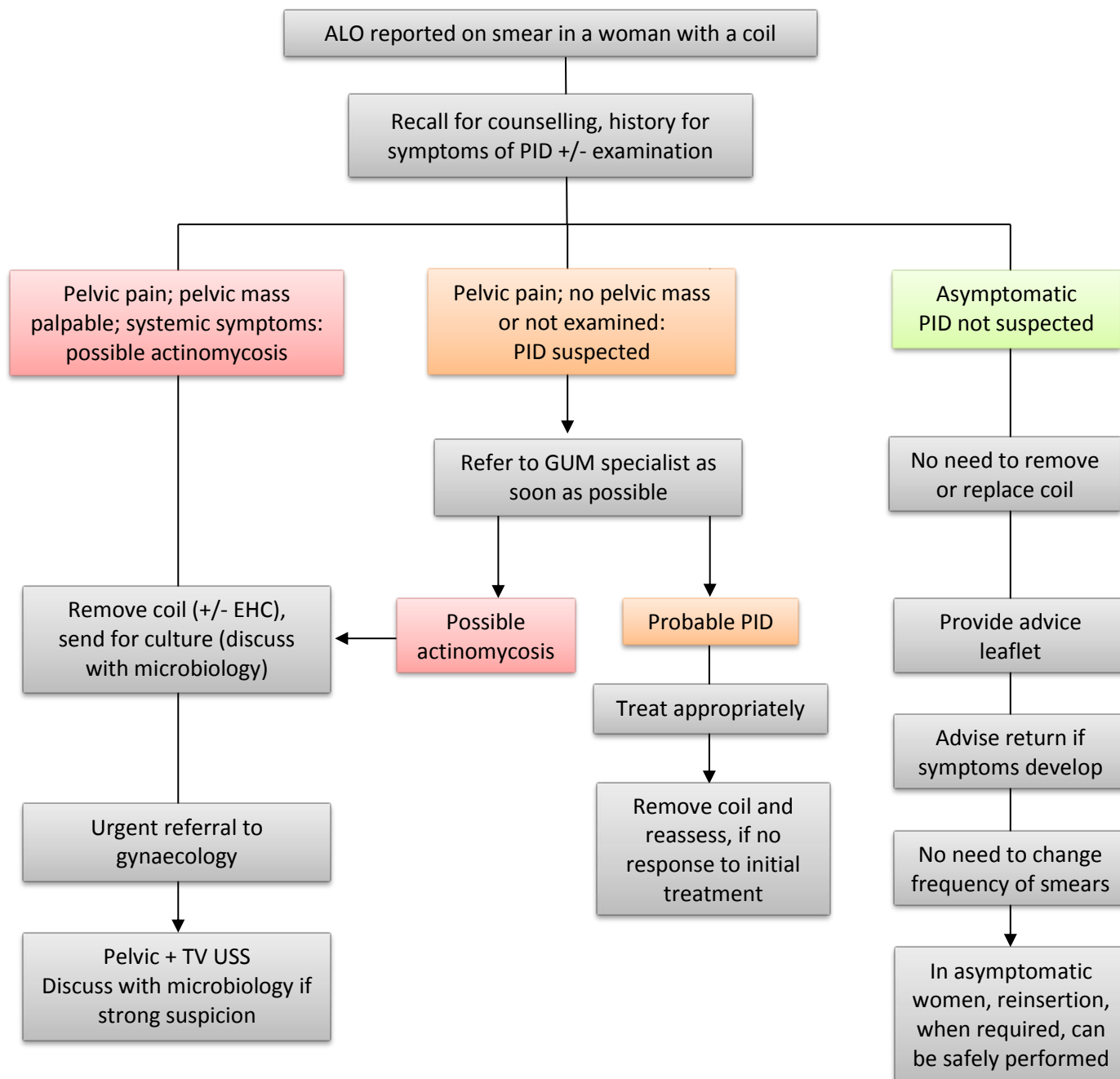


Pathway for actinomyces-like organisms (ALO) on smears



- *Actinomyces israelii* is a Gram positive anaerobic bacterium.
- It is a commensal of the female tract and if found on a cervical smear is usually of no significance.
- It can, very rarely, cause a pelvic infection.
- Pelvic actinomycosis is a severe, chronic infection, associated with abscess formation and fistulas.
- It is treated with a beta-lactam antibiotic, usually penicillin or a cephalosporin, for 2 to 6 months.
- Surgical resection may be required.

[2015 FSRH guidance: intrauterine contraception](#)
 Review article: Pelvic actinomycosis
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/cjdm/2017/9428650/>