

HYSTERECTOMY

A hysterectomy (his-tur-EK-tuh-mee) is surgery to remove a woman's uterus. The uterus, or womb, is where a baby grows during pregnancy.

- After a hysterectomy, a woman no longer has menstrual periods and cannot become pregnant. If the doctor removes the ovaries, a woman will enter menopause and may have symptoms like hot flashes. If the ovaries remain, a woman will not enter menopause right away because her ovaries will continue to make hormones. She may enter menopause earlier than other women.
- Some reasons you might need a hysterectomy include:
 - Cancer of the uterus, ovary, cervix, or endometrium (en-doh-MEE-tree-um)
 - Fibroids, which are non-cancerous tumors in the uterus
 - Endometriosis (en-doh-mee-tree-OH-suhs), which occurs when the tissue in the uterus grows outside the uterus
 - Prolapse of the uterus, meaning the uterus slips down into the vagina
 - Abnormal vaginal bleeding or chronic pelvic pain
- There are three types of hysterectomy:
 - **Partial, subtotal, or supracervical (soo-pruh-SER-vi-kuhl)** removes just the upper part of the uterus.
 - **Total** removes the whole uterus and the cervix, which is the lower end of the uterus.
 - **Radical** removes the whole uterus, the cervix, and the upper part of the vagina.
- There are several ways to perform a hysterectomy, including:
 - Abdominal hysterectomy, done through a long cut in the lower part of your belly
 - Vaginal hysterectomy, done through a cut in the vagina
 - Laparoscopic (lap-uh-ro-SKOP-ik) hysterectomy, done through three or four small cuts in your belly
- Ask your doctor if there are any treatments worth trying before you have a hysterectomy.
- If you have a hysterectomy, you may still need Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer, so ask your doctor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, OPHS, HHS

Phone numbers: (301) 427-1364; (800) 358-9295 (for publications requests)

Web address: <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer>

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Phone numbers: (202) 638-5577; (202) 863-2518 (for publications requests)

Web address: <http://www.acog.org>

American College of Surgeons

Phone numbers: (312) 202-5000; (800) 621-4111

Web address: <http://www.facs.org>



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