

VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY WITH OR WITHOUT LAPAROSCOPY

Purpose:

The purpose of a total vaginal hysterectomy is to remove the uterus (womb) through the vagina (birth canal). In addition, the tubes and ovaries can be removed if indicated.

The function of the uterus is to carry a developing baby or in the absence of pregnancy, to respond to the hormones produced by the ovary during the monthly cycle. The uterus and cervix (mouth of the womb) is attached to the top of the vagina and has at its upper portion the fallopian tubes. The ovaries are not a part of the tubes or the uterus.

In some cases, a laparoscope and laser may be used to assist in the hysterectomy. The laparoscope is a long fiberoptic scope placed through a small incision in the abdominal wall to visualize the pelvis. Additional laparoscopic instruments are placed through other small incisions to assist in performing the hysterectomy. The laparoscope can also be used to treat other conditions such as adhesions and endometriosis.

The uterus may be removed through the vagina for a variety of reasons, some of which include:

1. Loss of support of the uterus (Pelvic relaxation).
2. Uterine tumors (Fibroids).
3. Bleeding Problems
4. Endometriosis.
5. Pelvic pain.
6. Pre cancerous conditions of the cervix.

RESULTS OF A VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY

The result of a vaginal hysterectomy is that the uterus is removed and a woman cannot again become pregnant nor will she have periods again.

After the operation, there will be some pain in the pelvic area and from the small abdominal incisions if present.. Medications will be available for pain relief as needed.

RISKS OF A VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY

Any operative procedure under the best of conditions carries with it potential risks, hazards and complications. These must be anticipated on a statistical basis. The risks may be divided in intraoperative and postoperative complications as well as anesthetic complications.

A. INTRAOPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS

1. Inadvertent perforation injury to the bladder.
2. Inadvertent laceration or injury to the large or small bowel with a small risk of having to have a colostomy.
3. Injury to the urethras (tubes going from the kidney to the bladder) by clamping, suture material, cautery or laser.
4. Infection in the operative site which could spread to other areas of the body.

5. Allergic reactions to medications.
6. Mild or severe hemorrhage (bleeding) possibly requiring blood transfusion with attendant risks of hepatitis and/or AIDS.

B. POSTOPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS

1. Fistula formation (healing that leads to abnormal passage) between the bladder and vagina, or the intestines and the vagina. This may require additional surgical procedures for repair of the fistula.
2. Infection as discussed above.
3. Delayed bleeding, as noted above.
4. Loss of a kidney or a ureter which may be cut or sutured.
5. Intestinal obstruction requiring an operation to release obstruction.
6. Fallen vagina (prolapsed) if support fails or healing is poor.
7. Thrombophelbitis (inflammation of veins) and emboli) blood clots that may break lose in the veins) and can pass to the lungs and obstruct blood flow (pulmonary emboli). This can be a life-threatening complication.
8. Risk of death from this procedure or its complications is reported to be in the range of 1-2 per 1,000.

B. RISK OF ANESTHETIC COMPLICATIONS

1. Heart rate irregularities.
2. Respiratory irregularities.
3. Aspiration of stomach acid with serious pneumonia.
4. Sudden changes in blood pressure.
5. Allergic reactions.
6. Stoppage of heart is a rare complication.
7. Body may lose ability to control body temperature (malignant hypothermia).
8. Risk of death, very rare.

The list of possible complications does not include every possible complication, but does include the great majority of potential risks involved in this surgery.

I have read and fully understand the information presented above and its relation to the proposed surgical procedure. I also understand that there is not guarantee of results of the surgery.

Print Name

Witness

Signature

Date