

**Patient
Information**

Hysteroscopic removal of fibroid

Introduction

The information in this leaflet will help to answer some of the questions you may have about the removal of your fibroid.

Your consultant has arranged for you to have your fibroid removed hysteroscopically (removed from the inside of the womb). You will need a general anaesthetic (be asleep) and should only be in hospital for the day.

What happens before the operation?

About 5 weeks before the operation you will have an injection to stop your periods. This will also make the fibroid shrink a little and it will be less likely to bleed during the operation making the operation easier and the chance of a complication less likely. The injection will switch your own hormone production off for about 6 weeks so you will get menopausal symptoms during this time, for example hot flushes or night sweats.

What does the operation involve?

During the operation the neck of the womb (cervix) is gently widened to allow an instrument called a resectoscope to be passed into the womb. Fluid is circulated inside the womb so that the fibroid can be seen and removed bit by bit using the resectoscope. These pieces are sent to the laboratory for examination.

The operation takes about 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the size of the fibroid. With this operation it is only possible to remove fibroids protruding into the cavity inside the womb. Any fibroid tissue within the wall of the womb will not be removed. If you are sure that you will not want a further pregnancy, then the lining of the womb can be treated with heat at the same time (ablation) which will reduce your periods more than if just treating the fibroid. This may be worth considering if you are suffering from heavy periods and you definitely do not intend to have any more children.

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Gynaecology

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During the operation there might be bleeding as fibroids have a large blood supply. If this happens a small tube (catheter) may be placed inside your womb for a few hours to stop the bleeding. This will be removed before you go home. A blood transfusion may be needed if the blood loss is very heavy. Very rarely the womb might have to be removed (hysterectomy) to stop the bleeding.

Perforation

In 1 in 100 cases the instruments used puncture the wall of the womb. If this happens the operation will be stopped and you will be given antibiotics and may have to stay in hospital overnight. Rarely, the hole bleeds and a keyhole operation is needed on your abdomen to close the hole. You may need to stay in hospital longer. Very rarely the womb might have to be removed (hysterectomy) if the bleeding cannot be stopped.

Fluid overload

During the operation the fluid that is used to distend (expand) the inside of the womb can enter the blood stream. If a large enough amount gets into the blood stream the operation will be stopped and you will need to stay in hospital overnight. You will then need to come back on another day to have the operation completed.

Infection

After the operation you can get an infection inside the womb which will cause you to have a smelly discharge and heavy bleeding. If this happens you will need a course of antibiotics which you can get from your GP.

What happens after the operation?

A doctor will see you before you go home and talk to you about your operation. You may have some period type pain for a few days. Simple pain relief such as paracetamol should relieve these symptoms. It is normal to bleed for a few days, but do not use tampons, use sanitary towels. A blood stained discharge can be expected for 3 to 4 weeks as the womb heals.

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After the operation

- You should rest for 24 hours.
- You can bath or shower the following day.
- Do not use tampons until the blood stained discharge has stopped as this could cause infection.
- You can have sex again as soon as the discharge stops. Continue contraception as before, unless you want to get pregnant.
- You can go back to work and continue with normal activities within about 1 week.

Contact information

If you have any queries, please contact your consultant's secretary.

Further information

For more information, please visit:

British Fibroid Trust

Website: <http://www.britishfibroidtrust.org.uk/resection.php>

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