

About Fibroids



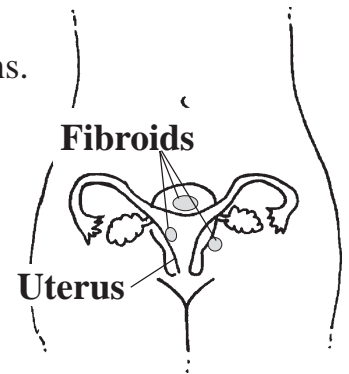
What are fibroids?

Fibroids are:

- Muscle tissue tumors that are not cancer.
- The most common tumors (growths) of the female organs.
- Tumors (growths) which can appear at any age in life.

A woman may have more than one fibroid at a time.

Fibroids vary a lot in size, weight and in where they grow.



How will I know if I have fibroids?

Most women with fibroids do not have any symptoms. Most fibroids are found during a vaginal (pelvic) exam. If your health care provider thinks that you might have fibroids, a test called a sonogram may be done. The most common symptoms of fibroids are:

- Pressure in the pelvis from the fibroids.
- Pain and bad cramps with your period.
- Heavy bleeding and passing blood clots with your period.
- Bleeding between periods.
- Trouble getting pregnant.
- Anemia (too few red blood cells) caused by heavy menstrual periods.

Symptoms may get worse depending on the number, the size, and where the fibroids are. Sometimes a woman will notice that her belly is getting bigger. A fibroid may cause the woman to feel pressure in her pelvis, like that of being pregnant. Fibroids may cause pressure on the bladder causing the need to urinate (pee) often. Pressure on the intestine (gut) may cause constipation (bowel movements may be hard to pass).

Who gets fibroids?

Fibroids are not common before a woman starts having periods. They most often cause problems in women who have never been pregnant. Fibroids may get larger while using birth control pills. Some fibroids may get smaller after menopause (change of life).

What if I am pregnant and have fibroids?

Fibroids in pregnant women may get larger, smaller, or stay the same size. They may cause pain during pregnancy. Fibroids can cause problems during pregnancy, such as miscarriage, early labor, and the need for caesarean section (C-section) to deliver the baby.



How are fibroids treated?

With medicine or surgery, depending on how big, and where the fibroids are.