

Endometriosis

Endometriosis is a common health problem in women. It occurs when the tissue that lines the uterus or womb (endometrium) grows outside of the uterus on other organs or structures in the body. It can be most commonly found on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, tissues that hold the uterus in place, outer surface of the uterus, or the lining of the pelvic cavity. Growths of endometriosis are benign (not cancerous).

Symptoms

The most common symptom is pain in the lower abdomen or pelvis, or the lower back, most often during menstrual cycles. Some women have no pain, other women may have severe pain. Other symptoms include pain during or after sex, intestinal pain, pain with bowel movements or urination.

Main causes of Endometriosis

No one knows the exact cause. However endometriosis does run in some families, so it may be carried in the genes. Also, the hormone estrogen appears to promote the growth of endometriosis.

Treatment

Hormone Treatment like birth control pills and progestins are used to decrease the amount of menstrual flow, prevent overgrowth of endometrial tissue, and control the pain (especially during the menstrual cycle).

Pain Medications such as Ibuprofen are helpful to gain relief when the symptoms are milder.

Surgery is usually the best choice for women with severe endometriosis. A laparoscopy or laparotomy is a surgery to remove

endometriosis growths or burn them away. Some women require a hysterectomy, which is a surgery to remove the uterus. The ovaries may or may not be removed at the same time. This is typically done when the endometriosis has severely damaged the organs, and is often considered a last resort.

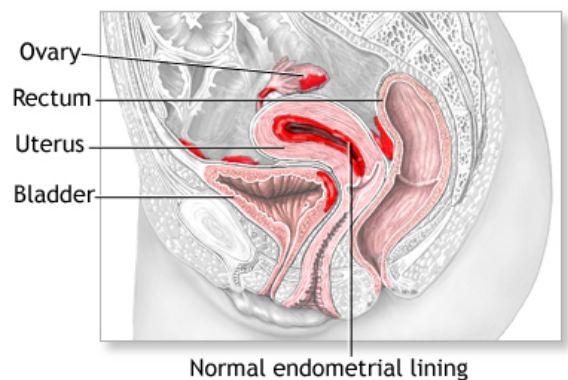
For more information on Endometriosis visit:

www.pelvicpain.org

www.womenshealth.gov

www.endometriosisassn.org

Common sites for endometrial growths in red



Normal endometrial lining

ADAM.