

Gynaecology - Hysterectomy

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Your Gynaecologist has recommended a hysterectomy where your womb is removed. This may be performed Laparoscopically using instruments inserted through small cuts on your abdomen or performed by laparotomy using a larger incision on your abdomen. You will be provided with a written information leaflet that details your specific surgery when you attend the Gynaecology Outpatients Department.

Guidance for Patients

Common reasons for having a hysterectomy include:

- Heavy or painful periods not controlled by other treatments
- Fibroids where the muscle of your womb becomes overgrown
- Cancerous cells
- Endometriosis

While you are waiting for your procedure your Gynaecologist may recommend an alternative management or treatment to support your symptoms. It is important that you consider these options too in the short term to support your well-being.

This may include:

- Medication
- Pelvic floor exercises
- Physiotherapy
- Lifestyle changes
- Intrauterine systems

It is important that while you are waiting for your surgery you remain as active and as medically fit as possible. If you have any long-standing conditions such as high blood pressure you should get this reviewed at your GP surgery to make sure it remains well controlled. This will also help prevent any unnecessary delays when you come for your pre-operative assessment. Maintaining a well-balanced diet is also important, as is reducing any excessive weight that may be impacting on your general health. If you are a current smoker it would be advisable to seek support to help with stopping, advice can be found at your local pharmacy or Doctor's surgery.

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My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Find out your BMI

Follow this link to the [NHS BMI Calculator](#)

BMI of 25+

If you have a Body Mass Index of 25 or higher the [Better Health Let's Do This – Lose Weight](#) website provides online support to help you lose weight and includes access to the NHS 12 week weight loss plan.

The NHS 12 week fitness plan will support your weight loss plan as well as improve your health. This is aimed at beginners and will help get you into the habit of regular exercise over the course of the programme. It is structured but flexible enough to allow you to fit the exercise sessions around your other weekly commitments.

Information and advice on healthy eating and becoming more active is available from:

- [One You Eat Better \(website\)](#) - includes Easy Meals app for healthy meals and the Change4Life Food Scanner to help reduce levels of sugar in your diet
- [Better Health - Get Active \(website\)](#) - includes tips on getting active for all, including the downloadable Active 10 app, as well as tailored advice for those living with a long-term condition.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you feel you are becoming more unwell, **please contact your GP or NHS 111 for medical review in the first instance.** Your GP will be able to advise if this is something they can support with during your wait or they will be able to contact your Gynaecology team to discuss their findings in more detail and determine a management plan.

Contact Us

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