

What Is Endometriosis?

Endometriosis is when the endometrium (tissue that lines the uterus) is outside the uterus. When endometriosis occurs, the normal lining causes bleeding or adhesions (scars) to form during the normal hormonal cycles. These adhesions can stick organs together such as the fallopian tubes, ovaries, bowel or rectum.

How do I know if I have endometriosis?

- Pain during menstruation (your period)
 - Pain during sexual intercourse.
 - Pain during bowel movements.
 - Stomach bloating during menstruation.
 - Constipation (no bowel movements).
 - Diarrhea.
 - Infertility (not able to have children).
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What can fix it?

Treatment options will depend on how bad your symptoms are. Your doctor will also make sure the other organs involved are ok. These options may include:

- Fertility treatments.
 - Medical treatments.
 - Surgery.
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When is surgery needed?

If pain and bowel symptoms are very bad or if fertility is a major risk, surgery will be discussed.

The type of bowel surgery may range from **shaving** of the endometriosis from the bowel wall, removal of the adhesions (scars) or the entire portion of the bowel that is affected.

How can I learn more?

Additional resources for information can be found through the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) at <http://www.fascrs.org/patients/conditions/>.

Do you have any questions or comments for your doctor?

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