



Spire Healthcare

Treatment summary

Vaginal repair operation

What is a vaginal repair?

A vaginal repair is an operation to lift up and strengthen the walls of the vagina to restore its normal support. It is also known as colporrhaphy.

The operation usually requires a hospital stay of two or three days. It is performed under general anaesthesia, which means you will be asleep during the procedure.

Your surgeon will explain the benefits and risks of having a vaginal repair, and will also discuss the alternatives to the procedure.

About the operation

There are different ways to do this procedure depending on the extent of the repair. Your surgeon will discuss the technique he or she will use.

Typically, your surgeon makes a cut (incision) through the vaginal wall from the inside. The outside walls of the vagina are lifted up and attached to pelvic ligaments for support. The incision is then sewn up inside using dissolvable stitches, so you will not have any visible scars.

Occasionally the operation is done through a cut made in the skin of your abdomen, just above the pubic hair line. The operation usually lasts about an hour. Your surgeon will put in a catheter (a tube) to drain urine from your bladder into a bag beside your bed. This is because most women have difficulty passing urine after this procedure. The catheter is usually taken out in the first day or two.

After the operation, a physiotherapist will visit you to run through exercises that you can do at home to help speed up your recovery.

Vaginal repair is a commonly performed and generally safe operation. However, all surgery carries an element of risk.

Specific complications of vaginal repair are uncommon but can include damage to other organs and tissues in the abdomen, such as the bladder and bowel. These complications may need further treatment such as returning to theatre to stop bleeding, antibiotics to treat an infection, or further surgery to repair a damaged organ.

You may experience temporary bladder problems because the bladder and the urethra (the tube that drains the bladder) are moved slightly during surgery.

Despite surgery, it is possible that the vagina can lose its support again and it may be necessary to have further treatment.

The chance of complications depends on the exact type of operation you are having and other factors such as your general health. Ask your surgeon to explain how any risks apply to you.

To find out more about having vaginal repair in a Spire Healthcare hospital, please contact your local Spire hospital.



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