

Patient Satisfaction

- On average, 85 to 90 percent of women who have had UFE experience significant or total relief of heavy bleeding, pelvic pain, and other fibroid-related symptoms.
- The procedure is effective for multiple fibroids, large fibroids, and adenomyosis.
- On the basis of strong scientific evidence, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has concluded that UFE is safe and effective.
- Long-term studies have shown very high patient satisfaction (90%) and quality-of-life improvements similar to surgery.
- Over the past 20 years, UFE has become a widely accepted alternative to surgery, with about 30,000 procedures performed annually.

Risks

UFE is very safe and has significant advantages over conventional open surgery. However, any medical procedure has some associated risks. A small number of patients have experienced infection, which usually can be controlled by antibiotics. There also is a less than one percent chance of injury to the uterus, which could lead to hysterectomy. These complication rates are lower than those of hysterectomy and myomectomy.

Insurance Coverage

UFE is typically covered by insurance companies, but be sure to check with your doctor before your procedure.

How to Schedule an Appointment

If you think you may be a candidate for UFE, call 804.765.5052 to schedule a consultation with our interventional radiologist.

Interventional Radiology
200 Medical Park Boulevard
Petersburg, VA 23805



Phone: 804.765.5052
Fax: 804.765.5646

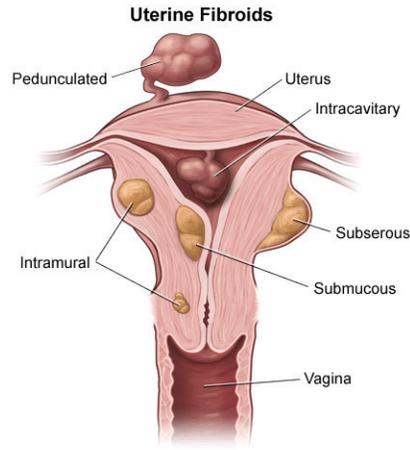
Uterine Fibroid Embolization

MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT



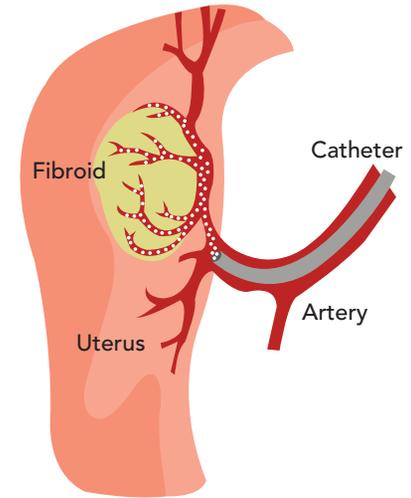
What are Uterine Fibroids?

Fibroids are firm non-cancerous tumors made of smooth muscle cells and fibrous connective tissue that develop in the uterus. Average sizes range from one to six inches. Depending on size and location, some fibroids do not cause any symptoms. African American women ages 35 and older are at higher risk for developing fibroids.



What is Uterine Fibroid Embolization?

UFE is a minimally invasive treatment performed by an interventional radiologist (IR), a physician who uses imaging techniques to treat ailments without surgery. You are given a sedative. The IR inserts a catheter into an artery in your wrist or groin, identifies arteries supplying blood to the fibroids, and feeds the catheter into the uterine artery. Then the IR embolizes (blocks off) the blood supply to the fibroids, which shrinks them over time. This treatment only takes about an hour and usually patients are back to their normal activity in less than two weeks.



Symptoms

- Heavy or prolonged menstrual periods
- Abnormal bleeding between menstrual periods
- Pelvic pain (caused as the tumor presses on pelvic organs)
- Frequent urination
- Lower back pain
- Pain during intercourse
- A firm mass, often located near the middle of the pelvis, that can be felt by the physician

Treatment Options

- Hysterectomy (removal of uterus)
- Myomectomy (removal of fibroids)
- Hormonal therapy
- Uterine fibroid embolization (UFE)
- Anti-inflammatory painkillers

Am I a Candidate for UFE?

In women whose fibroids are large or are causing significant symptoms, treatment may be necessary. Treatment will be determined by your doctor on the basis of:

- your overall health and medical history
- extent of the disease
- your tolerance for specific medications, procedures, or therapies
- expectations for the course of the disease
- your opinion or preference
- your desire for pregnancy



Advantages of UFE over Hysterectomy

- Less time in the hospital
- Faster recovery
- Fewer complications