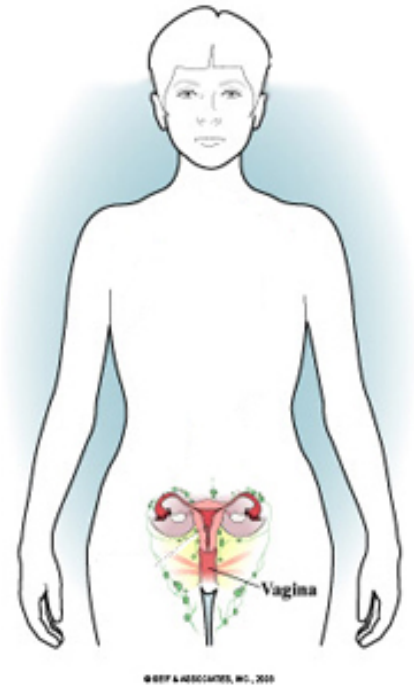
Vaginal Foreign Body

Any object found in the vagina is called a “foreign body.” The vagina is the opening to a woman’s womb (*uterus*). Any foreign body should not stay in the vagina for more than 6 hours. You might not notice any problems for a couple days. After that, you could have bleeding, itching, pain, swelling, or rash in the area. You might get an infection, even after the object is taken out.



Do not try to remove the object yourself, unless it is easy to grab.

HOME CARE

- **Do not** leave tampons in for more than 6 to 8 hours. **Do not** wear tampons to bed. Use a pad, when you sleep.
- **Do not** put objects in the vagina for sexual activities.
- **Do not** douche (*cleaning the vagina with a jet of water*).
- Set up a time to see your doctor for a checkup, within 1 week.

GET HELP IF:

- You think your child has placed an object in her vagina.
- You think you left a tampon or other object in the vagina.
- You have bleeding, liquids coming out (*discharge*), pain, swelling, or a bad smell from the vagina.
- It hurts to pee (*urinate*).

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- You get chills, feel weak, or pass out.
- You have stomach pain.
- You are shaking (*convulsions*), start throwing up (*vomiting*), or have watery poop (*diarrhea*).

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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