# Salpingectomy

Salpingectomy, also called tubectomy, is the removal of one of the fallopian tubes with surgery. The fallopian tubes are the tubes that are connected to the uterus. These tubes transport the egg from the ovary to the womb (*uterus*). Removing one tube does not prevent you from becoming pregnant. Salpingectomy does not have any adverse affects on your menstrual periods. There are many reasons to have a salpingectomy, such as if:

- You have a tubal (*ectopic*) pregnancy. This is especially true if the tube ruptures.
- You have an infected tube.
- It is necessary to remove the tube when removing an ovary with a cyst or tumor.
- The uterus needs to be removed.
- You need surgery for cancer of the tube or other female organs.

**Salpingectomy should not be confused with:**

- Salpingostomy - makes a new opening in the tube. It is also when the opening of the tube is restored after a tubal ligation.
- Salpingotomy - makes an incision in the tube to remove an ectopic pregnancy and sews up the tubal incision.

## BEFORE THE PROCEDURE:

- **Do not** take aspirin or blood thinners. They can cause bleeding.
- **Do not** eat or drink anything at least 8 hours before the surgery.
- Let your caregiver know if you develop a cold or an infection.
- If you are being admitted the day of surgery, arrive at least one hour before the surgery to read and sign the necessary forms and consents.
- Arrange for help when you go home from the hospital.
- If you smoke, **do not** smoke for at least 2 weeks before the surgery.

## LET YOUR CAREGIVER KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

- Allergies to foods or medications.
- All the medications you are taking. This includes over-the-counter and prescription drugs, herbs, eye drops, creams and steroids.
- If you are using illegal drugs or drinking alcohol.
- Your smoking habits.
- Previous problems with anesthesia including numbing medication.
- The possibility of being pregnant.
- History of blood clotting or other blood problems.
- Previous surgery.
- Other medical or health problems.

## RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

- Injury to surrounding organs.
- Bleeding.
- Infection.
- The surgery does not correct the problem.
- You have problems with the anesthesia.

## PROCEDURE

You will be given an IV (*intravenous*) and a medication to relax you. Then, you will be put to sleep with a drug (*anesthetic*). Any hair on your lower belly (*abdomen*) will be removed and a catheter will be placed in your bladder. Through 2 very small cuts (*incisions*) if you have a laparoscopy, or a large incision in the lower

abdomen, the fallopian tube will be removed from where it attaches to the uterus. The blood vessels will be clamped and tied.

## AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- You will be taken to the recovery room and observed for 1 to 3 hours.
- If you had a laparoscopy, you may be discharged after several hours.
- If you had a large incision, you will be admitted to the hospital for a couple of days.
- If you had a laparoscopy, you may have shoulder pain. This is not unusual and is from some air that is left in the abdomen. This air affects the nerve that goes from the diaphragm to the shoulder. It goes away in a day or two.
- You will be given pain medication if needed.
- The intravenous and catheter will be removed before you are discharged.
- Have someone available to take you home.

## HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Follow your caregiver's advice about taking your medications and follow up appointments.
- Resume your regular diet.
- Get plenty of rest and sleep.
- **Do not** exercise, drive or lift over 5 pounds until you get permission from your caregiver.
- **Do not** have sexual relations until you have permission from your caregiver.
- Try to have someone at home with you for a week to help with the household chores.
- Take your temperature twice a day for the first week. Write those temperatures down.

## SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have swelling or redness around the incision.
- You develop a rash.
- You have side effects from your medications.
- You feel lightheaded.
- You need more pain medication.

## SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a temperature of 100º F (37.8º C) or higher.
- You develop abdominal pain.
- You have pus coming out of the incision or the incision is separating.
- You have pain when you urinate.
- You develop chest or leg pain.
- You develop shortness of breath.
- You pass out.

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