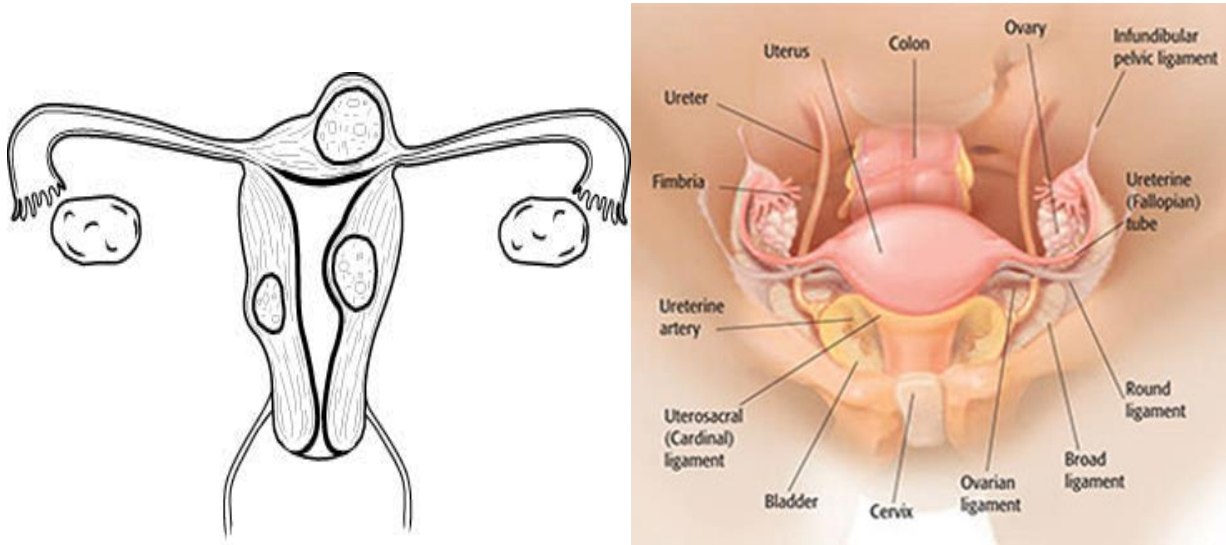


## FIBROIDS IN THE WOMB

Fibroids are very common. They are tissue lumps that grow in or around the womb. It is not known what causes them to grow. They can be as small as a pea, or as large as a melon.



They don't turn into cancer, but you may find they sometimes result in:

- Heavy or painful, long periods
- A feeling of fullness or discomfort in your pelvis
- Having to pass urine often
- Pain during sex
- Back pain

How we can help you if you have fibroids

We start by making a diagnosis with an ultrasound scan of your pelvis or an MRI scan. MRI stands for medical resonance imaging, which shows detailed 2D or 3D pictures of your body to locate and measure any fibroids. These tests can be taken as an outpatient.

### **Procedures to treat fibroids**

**Myomectomy** - this is usually performed under a general anaesthetic. The fibroids are removed from the womb either through an incision in the abdomen or laparoscope (key hole surgery)

**Hysterectomy** - this is surgery to remove the womb. This option is always very carefully considered and only used if the fibroids are very large, and if other treatments have failed.