

# Focus On: Endometriosis

The uterus is lined with a type of tissue called the endometrium.

With endometriosis, clumps of this tissue, called implants, grow outside of your uterus on your ovaries, your fallopian tubes, or even on the intestines and other organs in the belly.

That's why you may feel pain in one place in your body, but another person with endometriosis feels it somewhere else. And the pain can range from mild to severe.

Some women may also have heavy periods, bleeding between periods, or bleeding after sex.

Symptoms often are most severe before and during your menstrual period. That's because endometriosis responds to the hormone changes throughout your menstrual cycle.

Your treatment can depend on whether you want to control pain, you want to get pregnant, or both.

Your doctor might recommend using birth control hormone medicines to treat endometriosis.

Surgery can check and then treat endometriosis by removing the implants and treating any painful scar tissue.

To learn more about endometriosis, talk to your doctor.