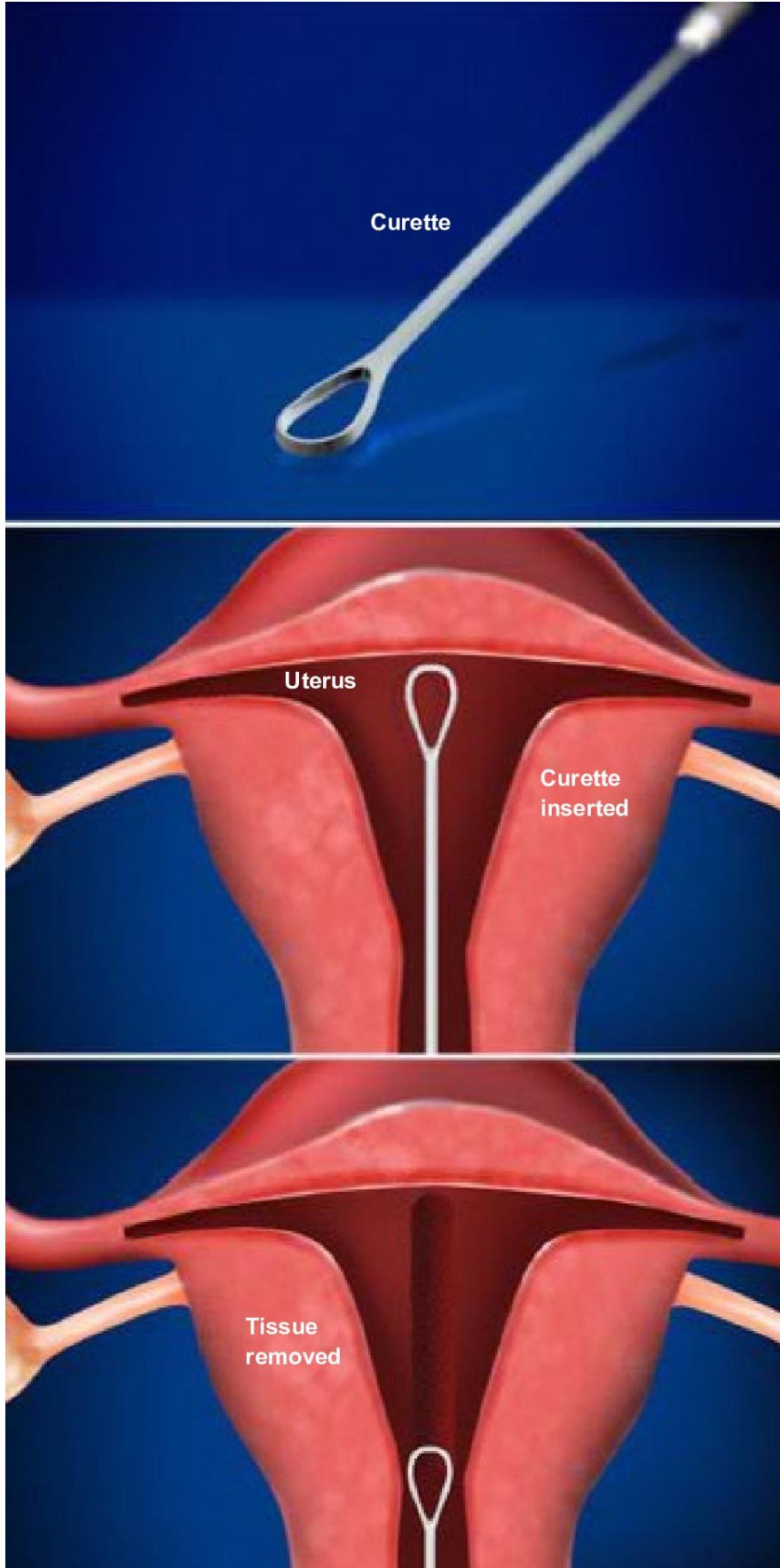




Dilation and Curettage (D&C)



Overview

This procedure (also called a "D&C") removes tissue from inside your uterus. Your uterus is the organ responsible for pregnancies and menstrual periods. We may do a D&C to get a sample of tissue to study. We call this a "biopsy". We may do it to treat a problem inside your uterus. Or, we may do it to clear away tissue that was left behind after a miscarriage or a delivery.

Preparation

To begin, you're placed on an exam table with leg supports and given medicine to make you feel relaxed and numb. Or, if you're having your procedure in the operating room, you'll be asleep before this step. We put a speculum in your vagina to hold it open so we can reach your cervix. We may also use a device to hold your cervix steady.

Dilation

In the center of the cervix is a passageway called the "endocervical canal". It leads to your uterus. We need to open this canal. We call this "dilating" your cervix. We may have given you medicine before the procedure to dilate it. Or, we do it now by carefully placing a series of rods into your cervix. We start with the thinnest rod. Then we take it out and place one that's a bit thicker. We keep doing this until we've used the thickest rod. When your cervix is dilated, we can reach your uterus.

Removing Tissue

Now, we use a spoon-shaped device called a "curette". We scrape it against the wall of your uterus to collect and remove tissue. We can also remove tissue with a gentle suction device.

Conclusion

When we're done, we watch you as you become awake and alert. Then, you can go home. Follow your care plan for a safe recovery. We'll follow up with you soon about any next steps we need to take.