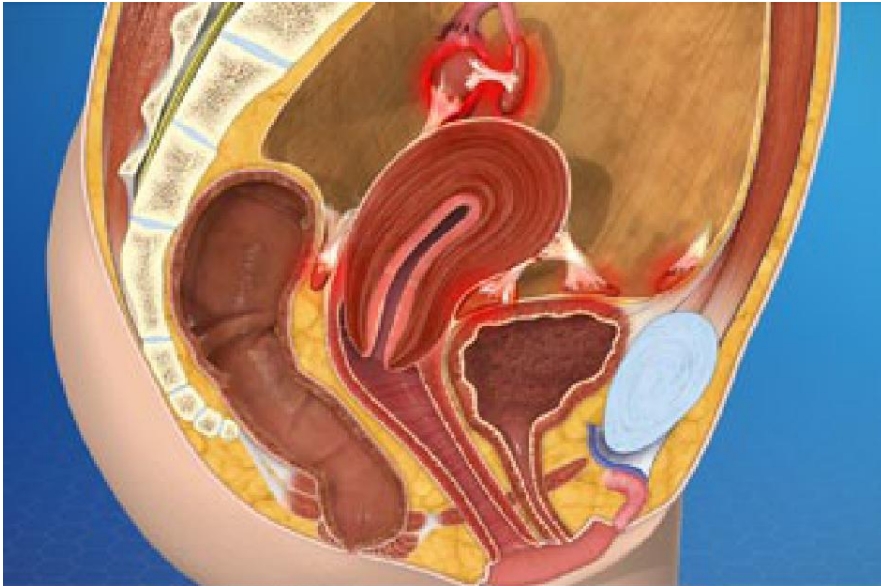




Endometriosis



Overview

This involves your endometrial tissue. It lines the inside of your uterus. That's the tissue that breaks down and sheds when you have your period. With this condition, your endometrial tissue begins to grow outside of your uterus.

Where it Grows

This tissue can grow on your ovaries. It can grow on your fallopian tubes, or in other places in your abdomen. And even though it's not in your uterus, it still thickens and breaks down during your menstrual cycle. Because the broken-down tissue can't leave your body, it can form cysts and scar tissue. Your tissues and organs may begin to stick together.

Causes

We don't know the exact cause of endometriosis. One theory is that it's caused by menstrual blood flowing up through your fallopian tubes and into your pelvic cavity. Or maybe something else carries the cells there. Another theory is it's caused by a cell mutation. It could also be linked to hormones, or to a weakened immune system.

Symptoms

Endometriosis can cause pain in your pelvic region. Your periods may be painful. Sex may be painful. You may have pain when you urinate or have bowel movements. Endometriosis can cause fatigue and nausea. You may feel bloated. You may have diarrhea or constipation. These symptoms may be worse during your menstrual periods.

Treatment

Treatment options depend on your needs. You may benefit from medications or hormone therapy. You may benefit from a surgical procedure. Your healthcare provider can create a plan that's right for you.