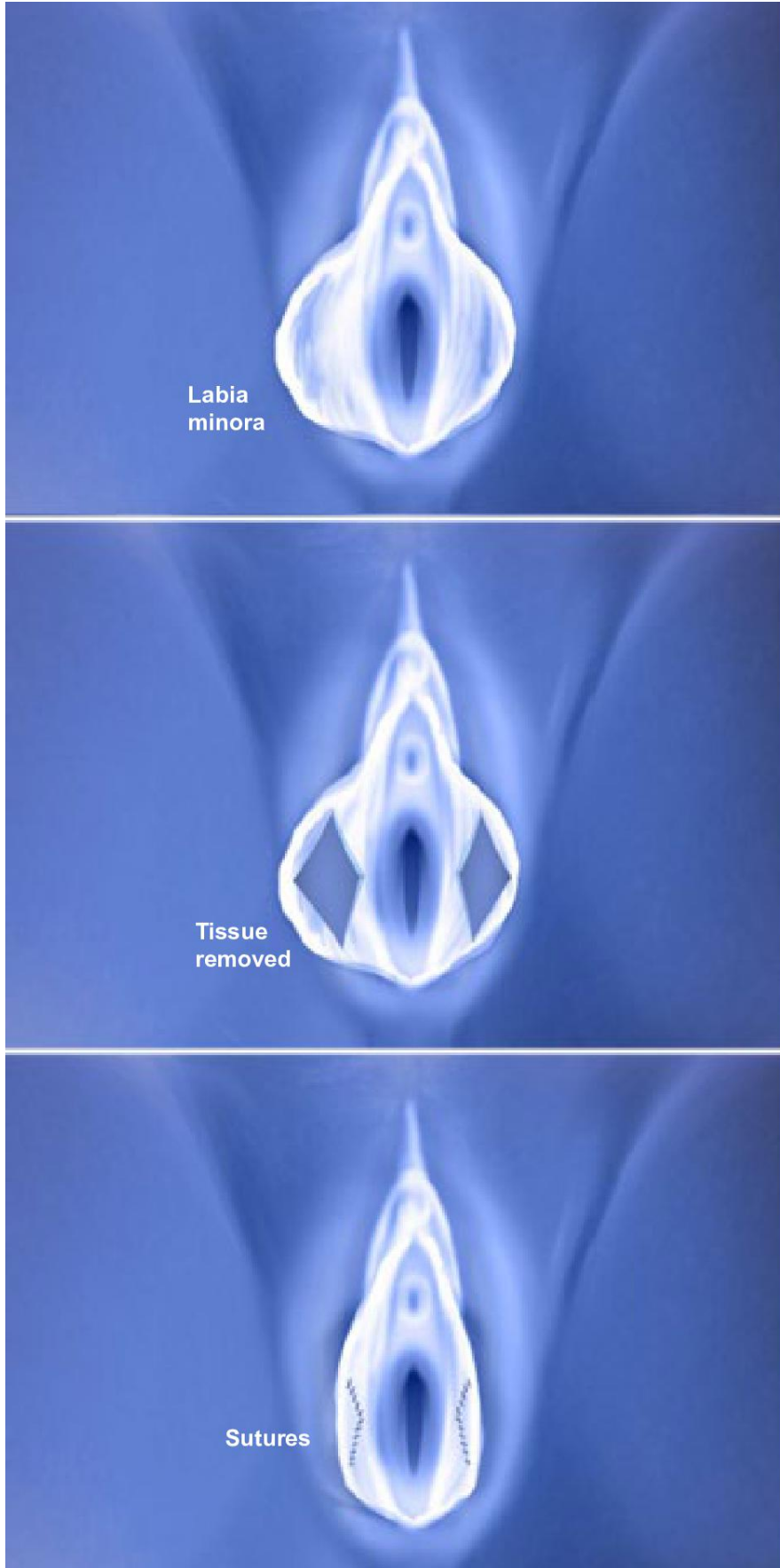




Labiaplasty (Labia Minora Reduction)



Overview

This outpatient procedure reshapes or reduces the size of the labia minora, commonly called the inner lips of the vagina. These are the flaps of skin on both sides of the vaginal canal. Some women have large, protruding or irregularly-shaped labia minora, and this can be uncomfortable and may cause a woman to feel self-conscious. Labiaplasty can give the labia an appearance that a woman believes is more standard.

Preparation

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned and anesthesia is administered. The type of anesthesia depends on the patient's need. Local anesthesia, sedation or general anesthesia may be used.

Procedure

During the procedure, the surgeon carefully removes one or more sections of skin from both of the inner lips. The surgeon may choose to remove tissue from the central portion of the lips, and then close these openings with sutures. This preserves the lips' outer edges. Another option is for the surgeon to trim tissue from the outer edges of the lips. Both methods reduce the size of the labia.

End of Procedure and Aftercare

Patients will be able to return home the same day as the surgery. The labia will heal in a few weeks with minimal scarring. Most patients will be able to return to work within 3 to 4 days, and return to normal sexual activity within 3 to 4 weeks. Changing the appearance of the labia may or may not affect sexual pleasure, sexual desire, or self-esteem.