

Colpocleisis (Vaginal Closure Surgery)

Patient Information · A simple, durable prolapse repair that closes the vagina

WARWIKI

Colpocleisis is a highly effective, low-stress surgery for pelvic organ prolapse that works by **closing most of the vaginal canal** to permanently hold the organs up. Because it closes the vagina, it is chosen by people who are certain they no longer wish to have vaginal intercourse. It is quick, gentle on the body, and very successful — an excellent option, especially at older ages or with other health issues.

About This Procedure

Rather than rebuilding support, colpocleisis **removes a strip of the vaginal lining and stitches the walls together**, shortening and closing the canal so the organs can no longer drop. It can be done with the uterus still in place or after its removal. Because it avoids a long reconstruction, it is faster and lower-risk than other prolapse surgeries, with success over **90%**.

The Key Decision

The one essential point: after colpocleisis, **vaginal intercourse is no longer possible**, and the change is permanent. For people who are sure about this, satisfaction is very high. Your team will make sure this is the right fit and that there are no other concerns (such as the need to evaluate the uterus) before proceeding.

LEARN THE TERMS

Prolapse

When pelvic organs drop and cause a bulge or pressure.

Colpocleisis

Surgery that closes most of the vaginal canal to support the organs.

Obliterative surgery

A repair that closes (rather than rebuilds) the vagina.

LeFort

A version of colpocleisis done with the uterus still in place.

Sling

A support sometimes added at the same time for urine leakage.

WILL IT HURT? The surgery is done under anesthesia (often spinal or general), so you feel nothing during it, and it is usually short. Afterward, most people have only mild discomfort and recover quickly — one of the easiest recoveries among prolapse surgeries.

How to Get Ready

- Be **certain about the decision** not to have vaginal intercourse.
- Follow your **anesthesia instructions** (fasting, hold blood thinners as told).
- A pre-op evaluation; sometimes a **slings is added** if you also leak urine.
- Arrange a ride and some help at home.

What Happens

- 1 You are under anesthesia; antibiotics are given.
- 2 Strips of vaginal lining are removed and the walls are **stitched together**, closing the canal.
- 3 A catheter and sometimes a vaginal pack are placed briefly.

After Surgery

- Often **same-day or one-night** stay; light recovery.
- A catheter for a short time; some spotting is normal.
- **Avoid heavy lifting and straining** for several weeks; treat constipation.

Call your care team if you have:

- A fever or chills
- Heavy bleeding
- You **cannot urinate** after the catheter is out
- Worsening pelvic pain

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Colpocleisis closes most of the vagina to support prolapse — quick, very durable, and ideal when you want a simple, low-risk repair.
2. The trade-off is permanent: **vaginal intercourse is no longer possible** — so it's for those certain about that.
3. Recovery is usually easy. Avoid straining, and call for fever, heavy bleeding, or trouble urinating.