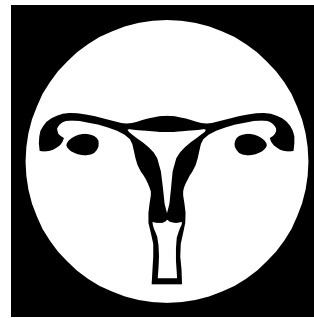


endometriosis

Endometriosis is a condition in which the endometrial tissue (tissue that lines the uterus) is found outside the uterus on the surface of other organs of the pelvis. Endometriosis affects about 10% of Canadian women at some stage during their menstruating years. Endometriosis can cause adhesions or fibrous scar tissue on the uterus which can lead to the uterus becoming stuck to the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and bowel. Along with period pain, this irritates the nerve endings of these organs, and interferes with their functions and can cause:

- Pelvic pain
- Irregular menstrual bleeding
- Infertility
- In some cases bowel and bladder symptoms.
- Nausea and lethargy
- Lower back, thigh and leg pain
- Pain with sex



Endometriosis can take a long time to diagnose as it is a poorly understood condition. The tests commonly used to help diagnose endometriosis involve an internal investigation through use of: Laparoscopy, ultrasound, and colonoscopy.

It is unknown exactly why the tissue that should normally be found within the uterus ends up at these other organs, they still react in the same way to sex hormones (oestrogen and progesterone) and will thicken in the first half of the menstrual cycle and break down (providing there is no pregnancy) and bleed in the second half. However, unlike a normal menstrual period it has nowhere to go and bleeds directly onto the surface of the surrounding organs and tissues. This then causes the irritation, scarring and development of adhesions.

Treatment

Treatment can include, Drug therapy – including use of, surgery and natural therapies.

References: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
<http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?/health/regions/library/>