



Understanding Uterine Fibroid Embolization

A minimally invasive procedure performed by an Interventional Radiologist. The radiologist will target fibroids located in the uterus and remove them through cutting the blood supply to the fibroid causing it to undergo shrinkage and ultimately die. This procedure has an 85% success rate in removing the fibroids⁴.

Fibroids can be commonly diagnosed as benign growths or tumor forming in the female reproductive tract. Generally forming in the muscle layer of the uterus, they can also be referred to as leiomyomas and range from 1-2 mm to a mass which causes uterine enlargement. Fibroids can be caused by trauma, malignant gynecological tumors and hemorrhage after childbirth.



huge

Patients may be recommended for the procedure if they have:

- » Low blood count
- » Fullness or pain in belly
- » Enlarged uterus
- » Infertility
- » Bladder pressure
- » Pressure on the bowel that causes constipation and bloating
- » Pain during intercourse
- » Pain in legs or back

Understanding the procedure:

During the procedure, the Interventional Radiologist will use a Cios Flow or Alpha, catheter, embolic agents, and a monitor to help identify where the fibroids are. The surgical c-arm machines will help the providers display pictures and video to identify and guide during the procedure.

- » Procedure is performed in a Cath Lab or inside an operating room
- » Entire procedure lasts about 90 minutes
- » Patient is placed under a sedative and can remain conscious³
- » Small incision will be made in the groin area for the thin flexible tube to be inserted into the femoral artery where the contrasted is injected
- » Interventional Radiologists use Cios Flow and Alpha to help visualize the arteries that supply the fibroid
- » Once the arteries are found the radiologist will inject particles of polyvinyl alcohol into the catheter to cut off the blood supply
- » No stitches are required following the procedure

Why is this procedure performed?

In comparison to surgical forms of treatment like hysterectomy or myomectomy, this procedure is a non-surgical mode treatment. The fibroids have an abnormal blood supply with aberrant response to hypoxia.

Who is at risk?



Around 20-40% of women over the age of 35 have experienced fibroids¹



Fibroids are more commonly found in African American females²

Sources: ¹Med India | ²BWHH.org | ³radiologyinfo.org/en/info/uterine-fibroid-treatment
⁴Penn Medicine | Radiologyinfo.org | John Hopkins Medicine