



Fertility & Women's HEALTH CENTER OF LOUISIANA

Helping couples build families.

Surgical Treatment for Endometriosis

Surgery can be an effective way to control endometriosis. The one criteria is that your surgeon is experienced and thorough. Many women have undergone multiple surgeries and still fail to find relief from their pain. It is important that ALL the endometriosis is removed at the time of surgery for good results. This includes endometriosis on the delicate internal organs such as the bowel and the bladder, which requires exceptional surgical expertise. The endometriosis can be removed by excision, laser ablation, vaporization, or coagulation. Many experts believe excision is the best tool for removing the endometriosis to insure removal of the entire lesion, as opposed to other methods which make it harder to tell if the whole lesion has actually been removed.

The least invasive kind of surgery, and therefore the most preferred, is called a *laparoscopy*, in which a lighted tube is inserted into the belly button of the endometriosis patient through which the surgeon can see inside of the abdominal cavity. Other tools for destroying endometriosis can be inserted into other small incisions. This surgery can usually be performed on an outpatient basis. Expert surgeons are able to perform very complicated surgeries using laparoscopy.

A more invasive kind of surgery is called *laparotomy*, which requires hospitalization. It is considered major abdominal surgery.

While surgery is not considered a cure, if it is administered by an expert surgeon, it can often provide relief for many years. Will the endometriosis come back? Although most patients gain long term relief, about 20% of patients will need a repeat surgery due to recurrent symptoms of pain in the next 5 years.