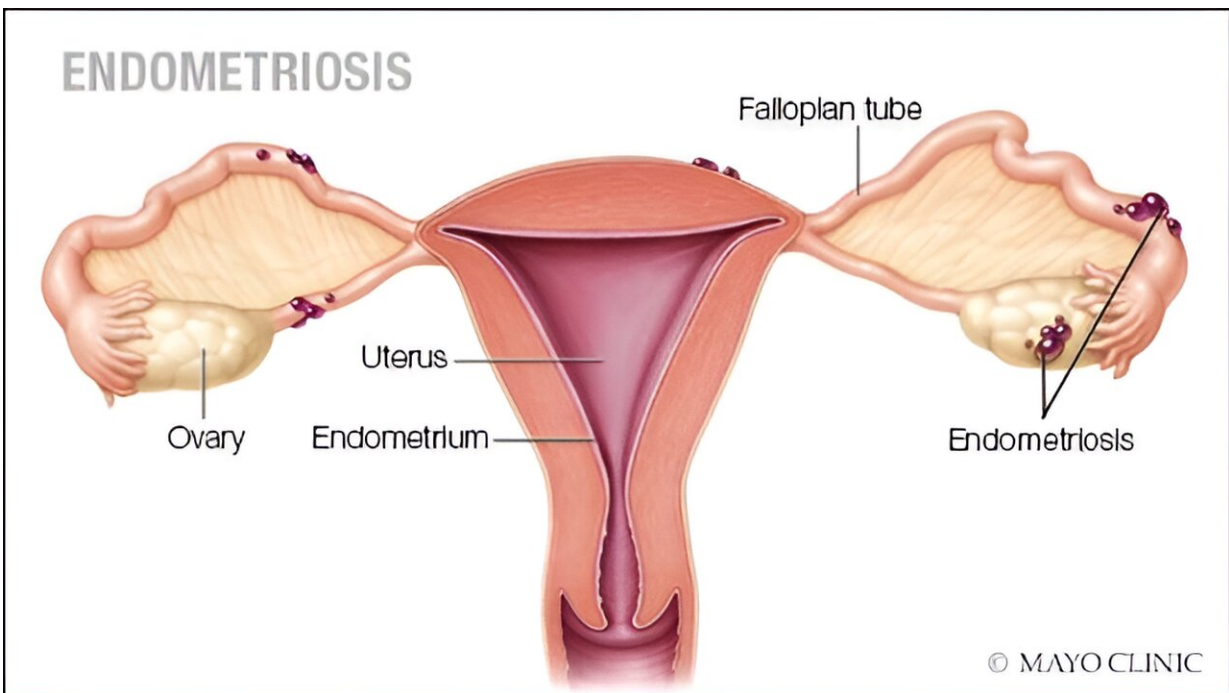


Video: When surgery for endometriosis is the answer

March 19 2024, by Deb Balzer



Credit: Mayo Clinic

Endometriosis is a painful condition where cells similar to the lining of the uterus grow outside of the uterus. While it most commonly occurs in the pelvis, it can occur anywhere in the abdomen or pelvis.

Dr. Megan Wasson, a minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon at Mayo Clinic, says it's a quality-of-life issue, affecting approximately 1 out of

every 10 reproductive-aged people.

"Endometriosis can cause a large inflammatory process throughout the entire body that can result in fatigue and nausea. It can affect the bowels. It can really affect every single organ system," says Dr. Wasson.

Symptoms of endometriosis

Most frequently, patients will experience [pelvic pain](#) or perhaps cramping with their menstrual periods.

"They can also develop pain with [intercourse](#), pain with bowel movements, pain with urination," says Dr. Wasson. "It really can be a whole-body disease."

Women can manage symptoms with over-the-counter medication or medication to stabilize hormones, but that doesn't cure endometriosis.

"The only way to really get to the root of endometriosis is surgery," says Dr. Wasson.

Laparoscopic surgery is a less invasive option, commonly used to diagnose and treat endometriosis. Dr. Wasson says advanced technology can manage even more severe cases of endometriosis with a minimally invasive approach.

"If we remove the disease, if we get the [endometriosis](#) out of the body, it can improve those symptoms and improve quality of life," Dr. Wasson says.

Provided by Mayo Clinic

Citation: Video: When surgery for endometriosis is the answer (2024, March 19) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-03-video-surgery-endometriosis.html>

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