

2023 Informed Consent Handout – Vaginal Hysterectomy

This handout explains the risk of Vaginal Hysterectomy, which is surgical removal of the uterus through the vagina, as performed by Dr. Reilly. It is based on published studies of Vaginal Hysterectomy and Dr. Reilly's complication rates. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Dr. Reilly's office at (519) 787-7418 to book an appointment to review your questions.

Dr. Reilly started independent practice in August 2005. Between August 2005 and Dec 31, 2022 Dr. Reilly has performed 1262 Vaginal Hysterectomies. 82% of his patients experienced no complications.

Because Dr. Reilly is operating in the abdomen, there is a risk of damaging or interfering with the bladder, bowel, or important blood vessels. Damage to these organs may result in additional surgery, long-term disability, and death. In published studies the rate of bladder injury or injury to the tubes connecting the bladder to the kidneys called ureters is 1.5%¹ while Dr. Reilly's rate is 0.8%. Some patients are unable to empty their bladder after Vaginal Hysterectomy. This is called urinary retention. The published risk of urinary retention is 1.5% while Dr. Reilly's patients experience that at a rate of 0.4%. Risk of bowel injury is 0.1 – 0.6% in studies and 0.6% in Dr. Reilly's patients. Damage to the important blood vessels in the abdominal cavity is too rare for there to be a published rate, and Dr. Reilly has never had that complication occur.

The most common complications of a Vaginal Hysterectomy are bleeding and infection. These can range from a minor issue that does not require any treatment to death. In published studies, the risk of higher than average bleeding ranges from 1% to 10% while Dr. Reilly's patients experience this 9% of the time. For infection, the risk in published studies ranges from 5% to 14% while Dr. Reilly's rate is 11%.

Sometimes the hysterectomy cannot be completed through the vagina and an incision in the abdomen needs to be made. That is called a laparotomy. In published studies the risk of this occurring is 2% while Dr. Reilly has needed to do this 0.6% of the time.

Because your movement will be restricted for a time after surgery, there is a risk of blood clots forming in your legs or lungs. This is a rare event without a published rate. Dr. Reilly has had 2 patients experience this complication (0.2%).

¹ Dallas KB, Rogo-Gupta L, Elliott CS. Urologic Injury and Fistula After Hysterectomy for Benign Indications. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* Vol 134, August 2019, p 241-9.

Summary

1262 Vaginal Hysterectomies Performed

Complication	# of Patients	% of Patients	% in Studies
None	1038	82%	
Higher Than Average Bleeding	111	9%	1 - 10%
Infection	132	11%	5 - 14%
Bladder or Ureter Injury	10	0.8%	1.5%
Bowel Injury	7	0.6%	0.1 - 0.6%
Urinary retention	5	0.4%	1.5%
Major Blood Vessel Injury	0	0%	
Laparotomy	7	0.6%	2%
Blood Clots in Legs or Lungs	2	0.2%	

Additional Resources

<http://www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Hysterectomy>