

Total Vaginal Hysterectomy (TVH)

Technique

Procedure involves the removal of the uterus and cervix. The decision whether or not to remove the fallopian tubes and ovaries is a separate decision. If the ovaries are removed, the procedure name includes the term bilateral salpingoophorectomy (BSO).

Incisions

An incision is made in the top of the vagina for this procedure. No abdominal incisions are required. However, in approximately 5% of cases, your procedure cannot be completed vaginally, and would be converted to an abdominal hysterectomy.

Operative Time

Operative times vary greatly depending on the findings at the time of surgery. Your surgeon will proceed with safety as his/her first priority. Average times range from 45-120 minutes.

Anesthesia

Spinal anesthesia or
General anesthesia

Preoperative Care

Nothing by mouth after midnight
The procedure is usually scheduled immediately after your menstrual period.

Hospital Stay

23-hour observation

Postoperative Care

These guidelines are intended to give you a general idea of your postoperative course. Since every patient is unique and has a unique procedure, your recovery may differ.

Anti-inflammatory pain medicine is usually required for the first several days to manage soreness and inflammation. Narcotic pain medicine will be provided to assist with the discomfort from the incisions.

We recommend that anti-inflammatory medications, such as ibuprofen, naproxen, etc., be used on a scheduled (regular) basis and that narcotic pain medicine be utilized on an "as needed" basis.

Driving is allowed after your procedure only when you do not require the narcotic pain medicine to manage your pain.

Patients may return to work in 4-6 weeks following the procedure.

Nothing in the vagina for 6 weeks.