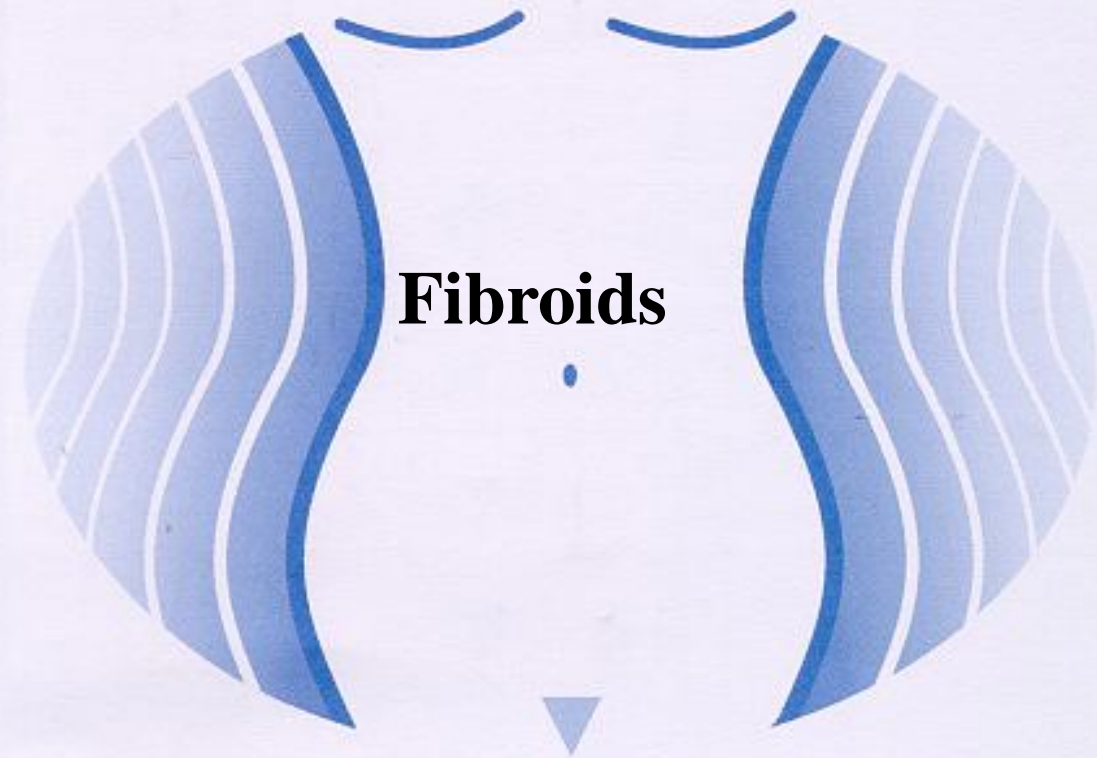


Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound in Mulgrave (formerly Diagnostic Women's Ultrasound), has provided specialist pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasound services to Melbourne's South East and the Dandenong region since 1989.

Dr Simon Meagher is an obstetrician/gynaecologist who has specialised in ultrasound and prenatal diagnosis. He is the Director of Monash Ultrasound for Women, consultant staff specialist at the Mercy Hospital for Women and lecturer at both Melbourne and Monash Universities. He is well known for his clinical and procedural skills and academic achievements, having over 40 publications in local and international journals.

O & G Ultrasound provides a complete range of pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasounds and related procedures including prenatal genetic testing for Down Syndrome. Dr Meagher (obstetrician/gynaecologist/ultrasonologist), Associates and sonographers specialised in obstetric ultrasound, work with state of the art, high resolution ultrasound machines. Together with an experienced team of nurses and support staff, our aim is to provide you with the highest quality ultrasound service available.



Dr Simon Meagher

Obstetrician Gynaecologist Ultrasonologist
BSc MB BCH BAO MRCOG FRCPI FRACOG DDU COGU
& ASSOCIATES

441 Police Road, Mulgrave Victoria 3170

Email: simon.meagher@med.monash.edu.au <http://www.ultrasound.com.au>

Tel: (03) 9790 1766 Fax: (03) 9701 0011

A **fibroid** is a benign growth of muscle which develops in the wall of the uterus. Fibroids range in size from 5-10mm (the size of a pea) to 150mm (the size of a football). They are very common, occurring in up to 30% of women. They generally do not cause any problems and many patients go through life with their fibroids unnoticed. Also, the majority of fibroids shrink significantly in size after the menopause.

Some patients do however run into problems which may include:

- 1) Infertility
- 2) Heavy or irregular periods
- 3) Pain

Infertility may occur as a result of blockage of the fallopian tubes (refer fig.1). Such a blockage may prevent the sperm from meeting the egg just before conception or prevent the embryo's passage toward the uterus. Fertility may also be reduced if the fibroids significantly disrupt the cavity of the uterus (refer fig.1).

Irregular bleeding with fibroids is usually the result of enlargement or distortion of the uterine cavity. Sometimes a small fibroid actually within the cavity may also cause heavy and irregular bleeding.

If fibroids enlarge and outgrow their blood supply, degeneration of the muscle may occur causing pain. Degeneration generally only occurs during pregnancy. Such a complication is however rare.

Problematic fibroids may be treated with a variety of hormones to decrease their size. It may however, take several months before a reduction in size is noted. Other fibroids may be dealt with by surgery. If the fibroid is small and positioned within the cavity it may be possible to introduce a narrow telescope into the uterine cavity and remove the fibroid. Larger fibroids are usually approached either through keyhole or open surgery.

UTERUS WITH FIBROIDS

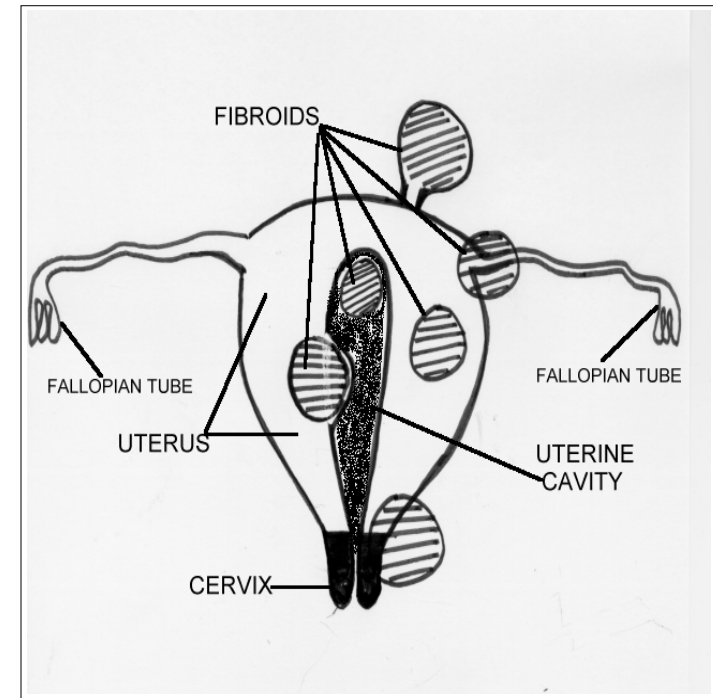


Figure 1: This diagram shows some possible locations of uterine fibroids.

Prepared by Dr Simon Meagher
Obstetrician/Gynaecologist/Ultrasonologist
MB BCH BAO (HONS).,BSc.,FRCPI.,FRACOG.,MRCOG.,DDU.,COGU