

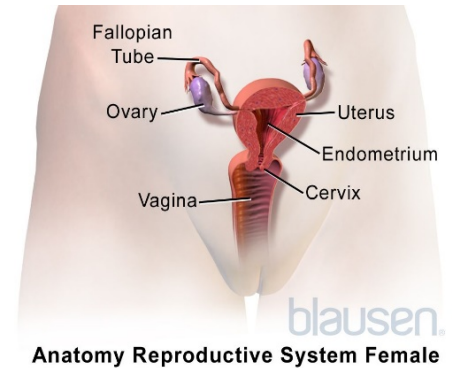
Bilateral Salpingectomy During a Cesarean Section

What is a Cesarean Section?

During a cesarean delivery (c-section) the baby is delivered through a surgical incision (cut) made on the belly (abdomen) and uterus. Some patients choose to have their fallopian tubes tied (tubal ligation) or removed (bilateral salpingectomy) to permanently prevent future pregnancy at the time of c-section.

What is a Bilateral Salpingectomy (sal-pin-JEK-tuh-me)?

Bilateral salpingectomy is a surgery to remove both of your fallopian tubes. The fallopian tubes connect the ovaries and uterus. The eggs from the ovaries travel through the fallopian tube to reach the uterus (womb). Since bilateral salpingectomy only removes the fallopian tubes, the ovaries and uterus are left in place.



Anatomy Reproductive System Female

Copyright © 2025 Blausen Images

Why have a bilateral salpingectomy during a c-section?

- To lower the chances of fallopian tube and ovarian cancer
- To permanently prevent future pregnancy

What is Ovarian Cancer?

Ovarian cancer can form in the tissues of an ovary. We recently learned that most ovarian cancers actually come from the fallopian tube, not the ovary.

The risk of getting ovarian cancer during your lifetime is about 1 in 78. The chance of dying from ovarian cancer is about 1 in 108. About 20,000 people are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year. Most people diagnosed with ovarian cancer will die from it within 5 years.

Can you screen for Ovarian Cancer?

There is not a screening test for ovarian cancer. Pap smears do not screen for ovarian cancer. Likewise, imaging studies (like ultrasound) do not screen for ovarian cancer.

C-section with salpingectomy

You can choose to have a bilateral salpingectomy after your baby is delivered by cesarean section (c-section). It is done through the same incision. In most cases, bilateral salpingectomy takes a few extra minutes and does not increase recovery time.

Studies show that the risks of complications from bilateral salpingectomy and from bilateral tubal ligation (having your tubes tied) are low.

Benefits of having a salpingectomy at time of c-section

- Permanent birth control
- Decreases the risk of ovarian cancer
- More cost-effective than having a second surgery for permanent birth control
- Does not add recovery time
- Lower risk of unplanned pregnancy and ectopic pregnancy compared to a tubal ligation.

Risks and things to consider when having a salpingectomy at time of a c-section

- Additional surgical complexity
- Longer operating time (8 minutes on average)
- Potential small increased risk of bleeding compared to a tubal ligation. One study showed that the risk of bleeding is 3.8% with salpingectomy and 3.1% with tubal ligation.
- Most studies show that removing the fallopian tubes does not cause early menopause. This is because the ovaries are left in place.
- Bilateral salpingectomy is very effective in decreasing the risk of ovarian cancer. It does not completely remove the risk of ovarian cancer. This is because some ovarian cancers (less than 20%) do actually start in the ovary.
- Potential regret. Both tubal ligation and salpingectomy are permanent forms of birth control. Salpingectomy is irreversible. In many cases, tubal ligation is irreversible too.

Why is this important?

Ovarian cancer is one of the top five deadliest cancers in women. There is no reliable screening test. Some people choose to lower their risk by having both fallopian tubes removed.

This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Always follow your healthcare professional's instructions.