



Endometriosis

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Endometriosis is defined as a disease where the endometrial tissue (which is the layer of the uterus that sheds with menstruation) is located in another area, like the ovaries, the Fallopian tubes, the lining of the pelvis, or even in other organs which are not necessarily related to the genitals, like the intestine.

This is something that is gaining much attention due to the fact that, in the last few decades there has been an increase in the frequency of cases. At present 1 to 2 women out of every 100 suffer a certain degree of Endometriosis. In addition, this disease can have severe consequences when it comes to women's fertility.

Since we are dealing with tissue that responds to hormones, its clinical manifestations are cyclical. In other words, when a patient is menstruating the endometrial tissue, which is out of its place, bleeds and causes local swelling. The accompanying pain can be so intense it incapacitates some women.

The leading symptom that women display with Endometriosis is Dysmenorrhea (pelvic pain during menstruation, which can be anywhere from light to very intense. Another important symptom is Dyspareunia, or pelvic pain during intercourse. Another manifestation of Endometriosis is infertility and is present in up to 35% of women unable to conceive.

Although a person's medical history may be suggestive of the diagnosis, it is necessary to undergo a Laparoscopy to make certain. Most of the time, the problem can be resolved with surgery by burning the areas affected by Endometriosis (electrofulguration). In some cases it is necessary to provide medical treatment in addition to the surgery.