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REVIEWED
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Diseases and Conditions

Anterior prolapse (cystocele)

SECTIONS

Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Anterior prolapse, also known as a cystocele (SIS-toe-seel), occurs when the supportive tissue between a woman's bladder and vaginal wall weakens and stretches, allowing the bladder to bulge into the vagina. Anterior prolapse is also called a prolapsed bladder.

Straining the muscles that support your pelvic organs may lead to anterior prolapse. Such straining occurs during vaginal childbirth or with chronic constipation, violent coughing or heavy lifting. Anterior prolapse also tends to cause problems after menopause, when estrogen levels decrease.

For a mild or moderate anterior prolapse, nonsurgical treatment is often effective. In more severe cases, surgery may be necessary to keep the vagina and other pelvic organs in their proper positions.

Appointments & care

At Mayo Clinic, we take the time to listen, to find answers and to provide you the best care.

Learn more. Request an appointment.

Symptoms

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Sept. 27, 2014

References

Products and Services

1. Newsletter: Mayo Clinic Health Letter
2. Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 4th Edition

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Pelvic exam
Posterior prolapse (rectocele)
Small bowel prolapse (enterocele)
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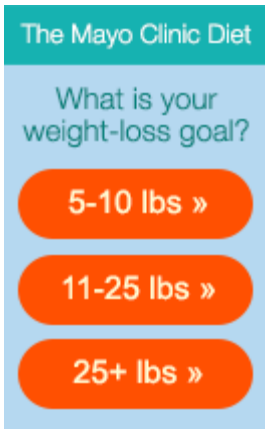

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