

FEMALE INCONTINENCE SURGERY, CYSTOCELE SURGERY

1. These are generally done through a small incision in the front wall of the vagina.
2. Some patient will be sent home with a temporary urinary catheter in place – common side effects from this include:
 - Feeling of urinary urgency and incomplete emptying.
 - Blood in the bag – blood in the bag is only a problem if the urine flow has stopped due to the thickness of the urine or blood clots passing.
 - Urine leaking around catheter – this is ok as long as urine is also going into the bag. It is caused by spasms of the bladder due to the catheter and is not dangerous. There are some medications that can be given to reduce this, but it is possible that it could persist to some degree despite medications.
 - It is ok to shower with a catheter in place.
3. Vaginal spotting or even a moderate ‘menstrual’ flow are possible for 2-3 weeks following this type of vaginal surgery
4. Some patient will remain incontinent for several weeks after the procedure while the urethral “sling” seats into place
5. Some women will have temporary difficulty expelling urine – this is due to swelling around the urethra after surgery and is almost always temporary. If you feel like you are not emptying well, you should contact the office during regular office hours and we can check this with a simple bladder scanning ultrasound. If you are unable to void at all, you will need to have a catheter temporarily replaced either in the office (if during office hours) or by the emergency department.
6. It is important to avoid sexual intercourse or tampon placement for about 6 weeks (ask you doctor for the exact time).
7. Warning signs:
 - Fever >101.5F
 - Shaking chills
 - Copious amounts of blood and blood clots (either urinary or vaginally)
 - Extreme and persistent dizziness and light-headedness