

Postmenopausal bleeding is any bleeding from the vagina that occurs more than a year after your last menstrual period (i.e. after menopause).

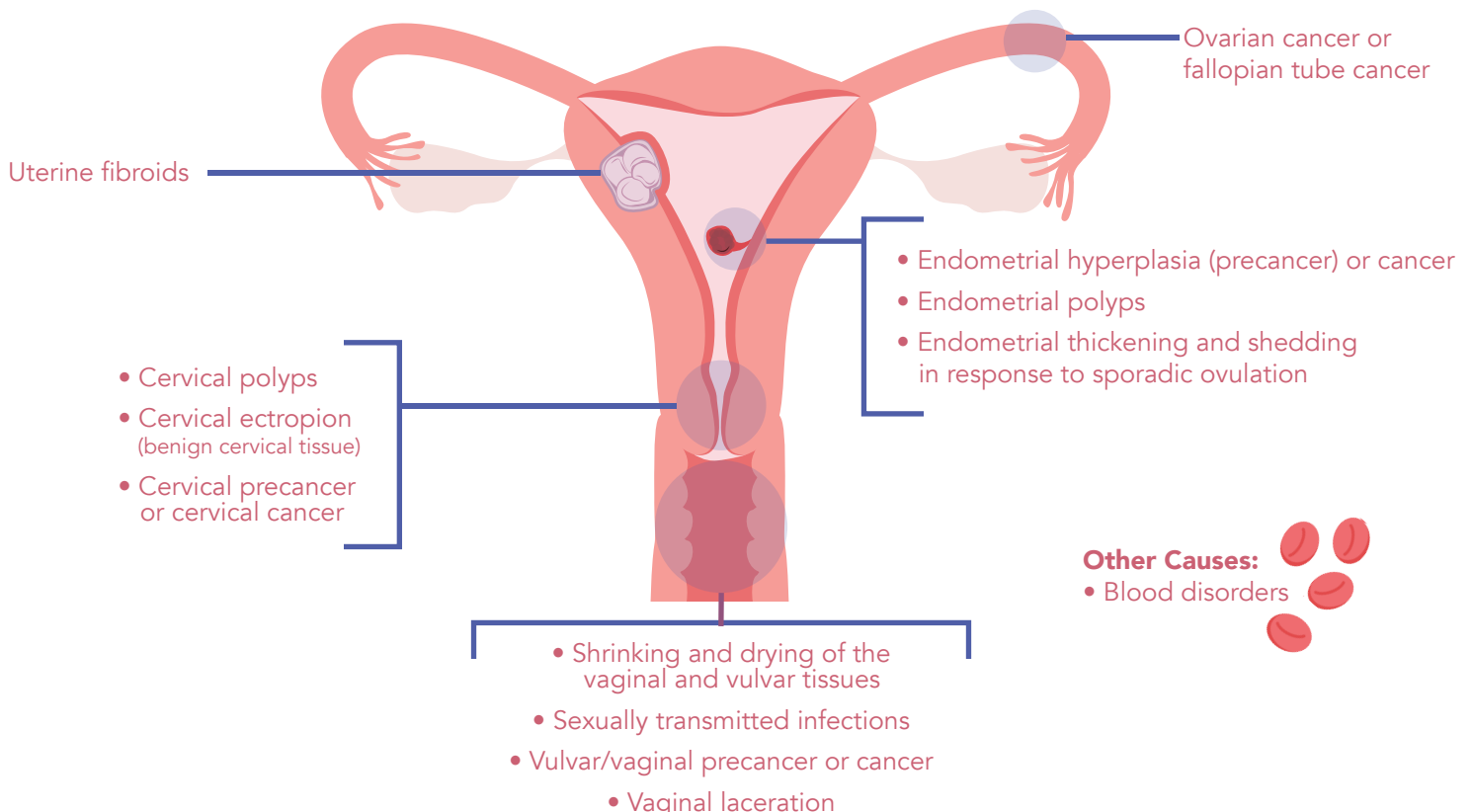
Prior to menopause, the uterine lining (endometrium) thickens each month with the production of estrogen from the ovaries. The lining is shed with a subsequent menstrual period unless a fertilized egg implants, which is the beginning of a pregnancy. Cyclic vaginal bleeding is expected prior to menopause. **However, when in menopause, the ovaries stop making most estrogen and the endometrium should no longer thicken and shed.**



ANY bleeding after menopause is considered abnormal and requires further investigation to ensure there are no worrisome conditions involving gynaecologic structures (e.g. the uterus, cervix or vagina).

- Postmenopausal bleeding will not always be period-type bleeding, and **you should tell your doctor about any type of vaginal bleeding** including spotting or vaginal discharge that is pink or brown.
- There are many causes of postmenopausal bleeding. Some can be worrisome whereas other are not.

some examples of what can cause **POSTMENOPAUSAL BLEEDING**



References

1. Kaunitz, AM. Differential diagnosis of genital tract bleeding in women. Up to Date. Updated 2021 Nov.
2. Goodman, A. Postmenopausal Uterine Bleeding. Up to Date. Updated 2021 Nov.
3. Laframboise S. Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Clinical practice guidelines: Gynecologic cancer – Endometrial. Toronto: UHN Princess Margaret Cancer Centre; 2019 Sept.

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