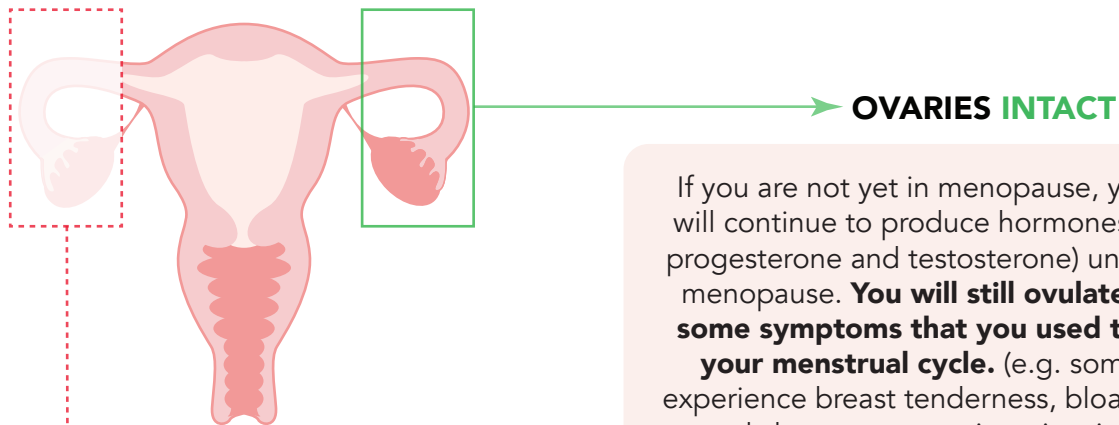


Ovarian Function after Hysterectomy

If your ovaries are removed at the time of hysterectomy, the symptoms you experience after surgery will depend on whether or not you were in menopause before your surgery. Talk to your doctor to determine whether removing your ovaries at the time of your surgery is right for you. This decision usually depends on the reason why you are having a hysterectomy and family history, among other factors.



OVARIES INTACT

If you are not yet in menopause, your ovaries will continue to produce hormones (estrogen, progesterone and testosterone) until you enter menopause. **You will still ovulate and have some symptoms that you used to get with your menstrual cycle.** (e.g. some people experience breast tenderness, bloating or even mood changes at certain points in their cycle)

However, with the uterus removed, periods and pregnancy will not occur.

OVARIES REMOVED

NOT IN MENOPAUSE before surgery

If you were not in menopause before your surgery, removing your ovaries will put you into a **surgical menopause**. Symptoms of **surgical menopause** can be more frequent and severe compared to those experienced during *natural menopause*. Symptoms of menopause include hot flashes and night sweats (called vasomotor symptoms), vaginal dryness, low libido, weight gain, and changes in sleep, mood and cognition.

IN MENOPAUSE before surgery

You may not notice a difference in menopause symptoms after removal of ovaries. **However, postmenopausal ovaries do still make some sex hormones** (e.g. estrone and testosterone). Estrone is a weak form of estrogen and testosterone can impact libido. Therefore, some patients may notice a slight worsening of menopause symptoms.

References

1. Thurston J, Murji A, Scattolon S, Wolfman W, Kives S, Sanders A, et al. No. 377-Hysterectomy for benign gynaecologic indications. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2019 Apr; 41(4):e543-e557.

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