

# Uterine Artery Embolization

## What are Uterine Fibroids?

Uterine fibroids are benign tumors of the uterus. Symptoms from fibroids, the most common of which is excessive bleeding, can be anywhere from mild to disabling. Fibroids are not cancers, but they can cause symptoms such as the following:

- Heavy menstrual bleeding
- Abdominal swelling (protrusion)
- Pelvic pressure
- Pain or spasms (similar to labor pains)
- Pressure on the bladder (frequent urination)
- Pressure on the rectum (constipation)
- Discomfort during sexual relations
- Interference with fertility
- Premature labor
- Repeated miscarriages

## Pregnancy complications associated with fibroids may be the following:

- Spotting or bleeding
- Fibroid degeneration due to the loss of blood supply to the fibroid
- Premature labor
- Premature delivery
- Birth canal blocked by the fibroid causing a c-section
- Infant growth
- Emergency hysterectomy during delivery due to hemorrhage
- Fibroid enlarging in size, which causes pain and pressure

## What are the 'Types of Uterine Fibroids'?

At the Doctor consultation the Doctor and/or patient can mark on the diagram where the uterine fibroids are located and place a check mark beside the type(s) of fibroids.

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