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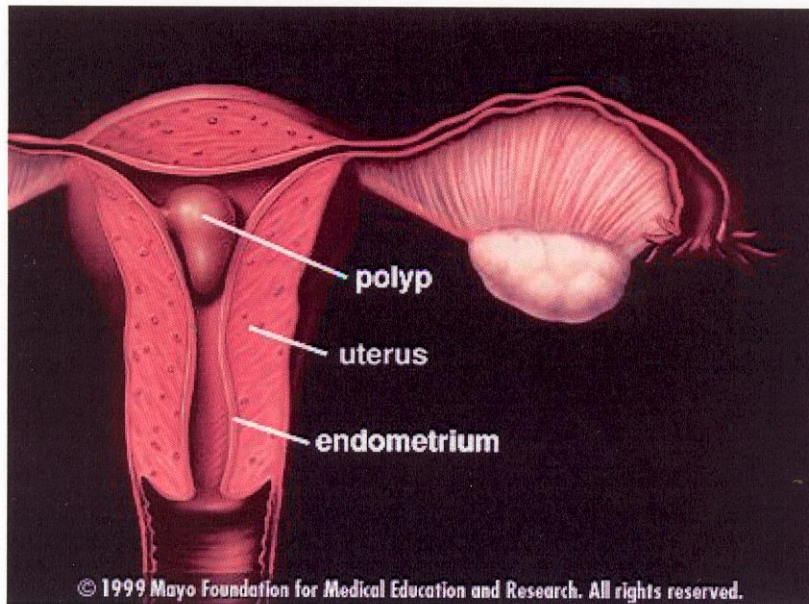
## UTERINE POLYPS

Uterine polyps are soft finger-shaped growths in the endometrium (lining of the uterus). They may occur alone or in clusters and may also be called endometrial polyps. They are most commonly found around menopause or in women with heavy or irregular cycles.

When polyps are small they do not cause trouble. As they grow bigger they can push through the opening of the uterus and cause bleeding and cramping. They may also become infected if they are injured by tampons or during sexual intercourse. Polyps can cause infertility and women with polyps have lower pregnancy rates than women who do not have polyps. Polyps can rarely be cancerous (< 3%) and are less common after menopause. Polyps can increase the chance of miscarriage.

Protruding polyps can be seen during a pelvic examination. Otherwise, diagnosis is made by a hysteroscopy, ultrasound, hysterosalpingogram, or saline infusion sonography. In order to evaluate polyps, typically a hysteroscopy and sometimes a D&C (scraping out the contents from inside of the uterus) is performed. A hysteroscopy is a procedure where a thin tube is inserted through the cervix to look inside the uterus. This is used to find and remove the polyps for a closer exam under the microscope. A procedure called a D&C may also be done if the hysteroscopy alone cannot remove the polyp or source of bleeding.

### UTERINE (ENDOMETRIAL) POLYPS



Endometrial polyps, also called uterine polyps, are growths that protrude from the lining of the uterus (endometrium). They're usually noncancerous (benign).