

Uterine Artery Embolization

- **What are uterine fibroids?**
 - A uterine fibroid is a common, abnormal growth in the uterus. It is benign (non-cancerous) but can cause significant symptoms that can affect a woman's quality of life.
- **What are some symptoms of uterine fibroids?**
 - The most common symptoms associated with fibroids are bleeding or bulk-related symptoms. Bulk-related symptoms can include things like pelvic pressure, urinary frequency and constipation. Other possible symptoms include pelvic pain and infertility.
- **How are fibroids diagnosed?**
 - A woman's medical history often can suggest the diagnosis. The diagnosis is usually confirmed with an imaging test. This is most commonly done with an ultrasound. Other tests to confirm the diagnosis include computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
- **How are fibroids typically treated?**
 - The most common treatment remains hysterectomy, or the surgical removal of the uterus. Other less invasive treatments include oral contraceptives medicines, myomectomy (the surgical removal of the fibroid alone), and uterine artery embolization.
- **What is uterine artery embolization (UAE)?**
 - UAE is a procedure for treating uterine fibroids by inserting a tiny catheter into the arteries that provide blood to the fibroids and blocking them by injecting tiny particles. The entire procedure is performed through a small incision, less than a centimeter, in either the groin or the wrist.
- **How effective is UAE?**
 - UAE has reported success rates of about 80-90% and a very low rate of complications.

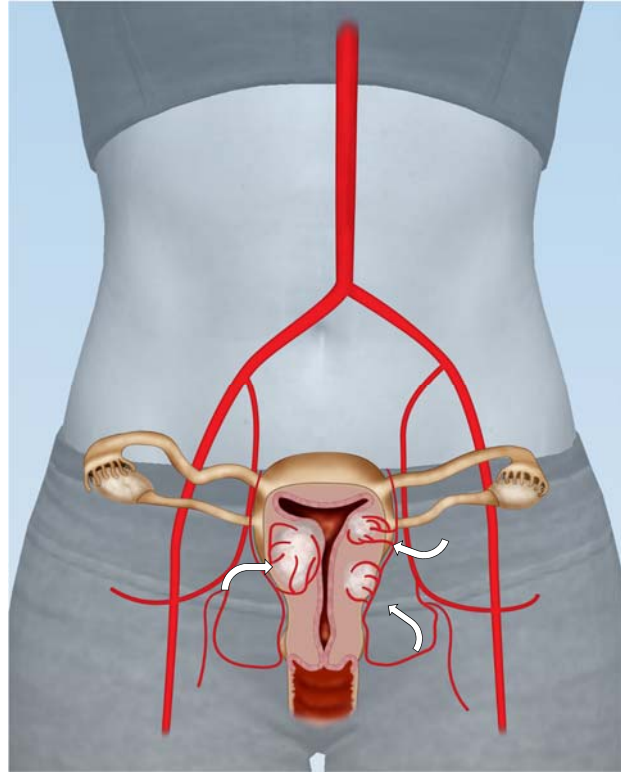
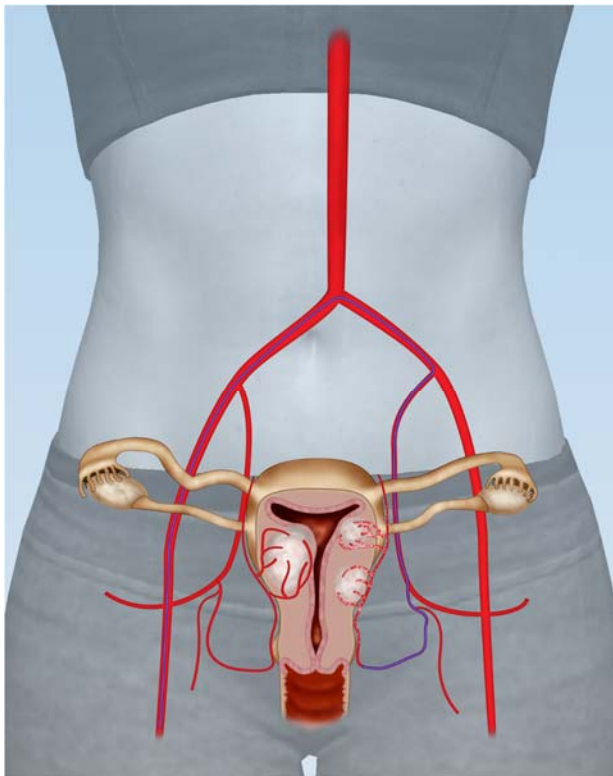
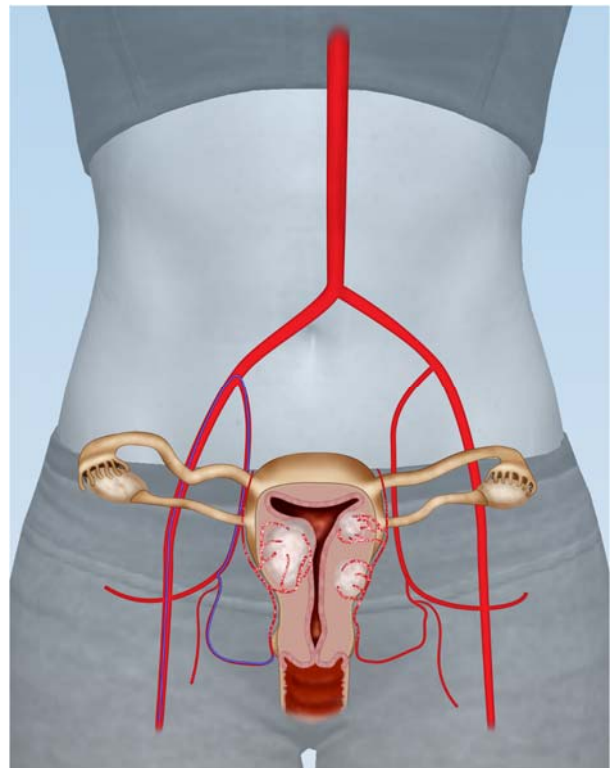


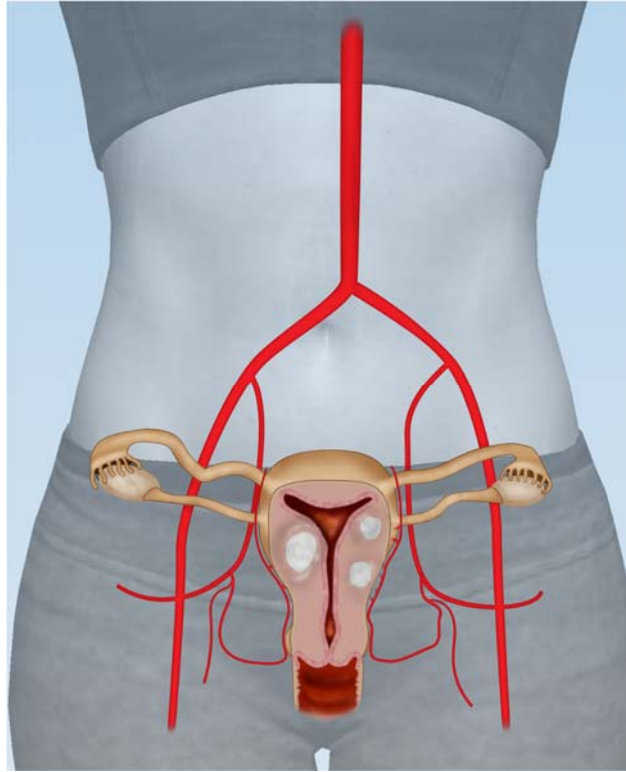
Illustration of multiple uterine fibroids (arrows)



Tiny particles are injected through a small catheter (purple in diagram) directly into the arteries that provide blood flow to the fibroids. This illustration is showing shows the particles being injected into the left uterine artery.

In order to treat all of the fibroids, particles are injected into the uterine arteries on both sides.





Over the next several weeks, the uterine fibroids will get smaller, eventually shrinking down to about 50% of their original size.

- **What are the risks of UAE?**
 - Possible complications include bleeding, infection, blood clots, injury to the uterus, and loss of menstrual periods (amenorrhea).
- **What can I expect after UAE?**
 - Most women will experience some degree of post-embolization syndrome.
 - Symptoms include: Nausea, vomiting, pelvic pain and cramping, low-grade fever and fatigue.
 - These symptoms typically last up to 1 week and are treated with pain medication and anti-inflammatories.
- **How do I know if UAE is right for me?**
 - You can schedule a consultation with one of our Interventional Radiologists who will review your symptoms and medical records. Additional imaging may be needed to further study your fibroids to make sure you are a good candidate.
- Where can I get more information?
 - https://www.sirweb.org/patient-center/fibroid_fix2/
 - <https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=ufo>
 - <https://ask4ufe.com/>