

Fibroids, also called leiomyomata, are growths that arise in the muscle of the uterus. Fibroids are almost always benign (not cancerous) but rarely can be malignant (cancerous). Fibroids are very common, and more often than not are asymptomatic and do not prevent women from getting pregnant. Sometimes, however, fibroids require treatment because of growth, heavy bleeding, bladder pressure, pelvic pressure, pain, infertility, or recurrent miscarriages. There are many ways to treat fibroids, including hormones and other medications to control bleeding, surgery, uterine fibroid embolization by interventional radiologists, or ultrasound sound energy. Women with recurrent miscarriages or infertility and fibroids sometimes, but not always, require treatment. Surgery to remove the fibroids is the first choice of treatment for women with infertility. Depending upon the size, location, and number of fibroids, surgery can be carried out by [hysteroscopy](#), by [laparoscopy](#) with or without a robot, or by a larger abdominal incision called a laparotomy.