

PELVIC CONGESTION SYNDROME

INFORMATION

Pelvic Congestion Syndrome (PCS) is a common condition believed to be associated with enlarge venous network in the pelvis that could result in development of chronic pelvic pain.

As with varicose veins, the valves in the ovarian vein/s stop functioning properly, allowing blood to flow back into the pelvis (in this instance) instead of carrying it towards the heart. This causes the veins to bulge and for pressure inside the veins to increase.

Varicose veins in the pelvis can also affect the uterus, ovaries and vulva.

Pelvic Congestion Syndrome remains one of the important causes of the chronic pelvic pain and varicose veins around vulva and vagina.

Symptoms

Typical features suggestive of a possible PCS are:

- Lower abdominal and pelvic pain especially after prolonged standing and/or seating
- Painful sexual intercourses (dyspareunia)
- Heavy and prolonged menstrual bleeding (haemorrhagia)
- Pain on passing urine (dysuria)
- Presence of vulva and vaginal varicose veins
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- Primary or recurrent varicose veins around upper part of the thigh

Surgical treatment of Pelvic Congestion Syndrome

Ovarian vein embolisation— is a minimally invasive treatment. This procedure involves a small incision being made in the groin and a small catheter being inserted into the body and guided to the location of the faulty vein(s) using live x-ray imaging for guidance. Dr Garbowski then closes off the faulty vein(s) by sealing the ovarian vein(s) with special metal coils resulting in cessation of flow.

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Side effects:

Most patients experience some side effects following embolisation.

- Pain is the most common and can be controlled with medication given by mouth or through your IV
- Should you experience considerable pain, you may stay longer in hospital

Complications:

- Slight risk of an allergic reaction if contrast material is injected
- Damage to the blood vessel
- Bleeding or bruising at the puncture site

Seek URGENT medical care if you experience difficulty breathing, chest pain or dizziness or you cough up blood.

Please note: **Opening Hours:** from 8.30am – 4pm Monday to Thursday and from 9am – 12pm on Friday

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office on 9382 9100, or email us at reception@perthvascularclinic.com.au.

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