

## What happens after the operation?

- Following surgery, a compress may be placed in the vagina for 24-48 hours.
- Moderate vaginal bleeding is normal.
- A urinary catheter and intravenous drip are generally left in for 24-48 hours.
- Minor urinary tract infection may occur and will be treated with appropriate medication.
- If you notice any pain, bleeding, fever, vomiting, calf pain or any other unusual symptoms once you have been discharged, consult a doctor immediately.



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This document meant to help healthcare professionals to provide information to their patients.  
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## Finding *balance*

If you have experienced prolapse...  
(Treatment by laparoscopy, sacral colpopexy)

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Patient information booklet

Ladies,

Around 34 million women experience prolapse worldwide. This document will help you understand the surgical treatment and answer any questions that you may have.

### What are the symptoms of prolapse?

- Heaviness and pressure felt in the lower abdomen: like a "knot" in the vagina.

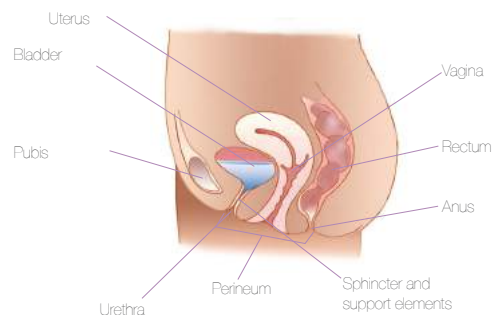
### What are the main causes?

- Pregnancy and birth
- Age and menopause
- Carrying heavy loads and chronic coughing

### What is a prolapsus?

- Prolapse is a descent of pelvic organs: bladder, rectum, uterus and vagina.
- The perineum is the pelvic floor holding all these organs in place.
- When the perineum is weak or lacks tone, the organs pass through: this is known as prolapse.

#### Normal anatomy



### What are the different types of prolapse?



#### Bladder prolapse (cystocele)

The bladder descends into the vagina



#### Prolapse of the rectum (rectocele)

The rectum descends into the vagina



#### Vaginal cuff prolapse

Prolapse of the upper part of the vagina (apex) into the vaginal cavity

### How the surgery will be carried out?

#### Prolapse laparoscopic approach (abdominal route)

- You will be admitted into hospital the day before the operation
- The operation is carried out under general anaesthesia
- The operation is carried out via small incisions in the abdomen
- The operation may include ablation of the uterus (hysterectomy)

### What is the operating principle?

- The aim of the surgery is to reposition the prolapsed organ and to hold it in place using two textile meshes, in the manner of braces.
- The bladder and rectum are attached to a solid element in the pelvis known as the promontory.

