

*Petoskey Gynecology
& Infertility*

VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION

Sterilization is one of many birth control options we have available today. **This decision is very important because it is considered a permanent procedure.** You and your partner must be certain that you **do not** want anymore children now or anytime in the future. You should avoid making this decision during an illness, during a difficult pregnancy, or during a particularly stressful time for you. It should be a well thought out decision that each woman makes for herself.

Sterilization is a procedure where the fallopian tubes are cauterized (burned), blocked with clips, or stitched and divided. This causes scarring of the tubes, and prevents the union of the egg and sperm. The procedure itself does not cause any hormonal, sexual, or physical changes in a woman's body. It should not affect your menstrual cycles.

For the vast majority of women, this is a very successful operation, but there is a small failure rate of about 3-5 per thousand. This means that for every 1000 women who have the procedure, 3 to 5 women get pregnant again. Some of these pregnancies will be normal, but some of them will be in the fallopian tube. This is called an ectopic pregnancy and will require either medical or surgical treatment. After a sterilization procedure, you must notify your physician right away if you think you are pregnant, in order to avoid a potentially life-threatening situation.

Sterilization is an effective, common, and safe means of birth control. But it is considered a permanent procedure. It may be possible to repair the fallopian tubes to make you fertile again, but this is only with a very difficult, expensive and often unsuccessful operation. ***Do not have a tubal ligation if there is any doubt in your mind about future pregnancies. Do not count on your tubes being repairable if you change your mind.***

I have read the above information and fully understand what it means to have a tubal ligation.

Signature

Date