Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Your Ovarian Transposition Surgery

This information will help you get ready for your ovarian transposition surgery at MSK. It will also help you know what to expect during your recovery.

About ovarian transposition

Ovarian transposition is a surgery that moves your ovaries out of the field of radiation. This will lower the amount of radiation your ovaries are exposed to during your radiation therapy. It may also help your ovaries keep working properly after your treatment. If your ovaries are working properly, you have a better chance of having children after your cancer treatment. You will also be less likely to go into early menopause (permanent end of menstrual cycles).

Your ovaries are located in the lower area of your pelvis (see Figure 1). In adults, the ovaries and fallopian tubes have to be separated from the uterus to move them far enough away (see Figure 2). In children, the ovaries and fallopian tubes can usually be moved out of the field of radiation without having to separate them from the uterus.

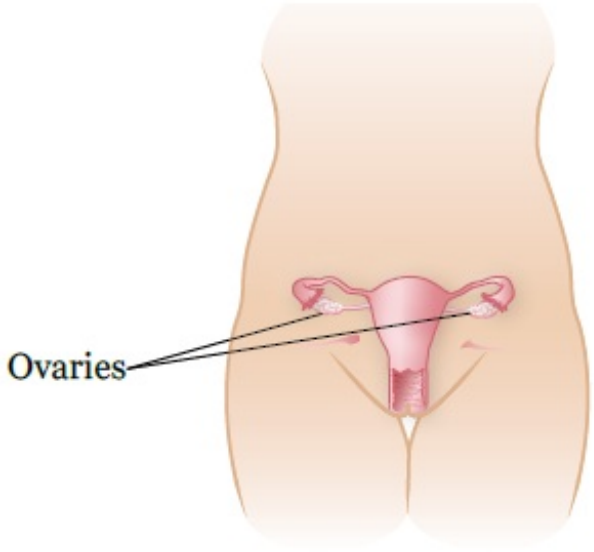


Figure 1. Location of ovaries before ovarian transposition surgery

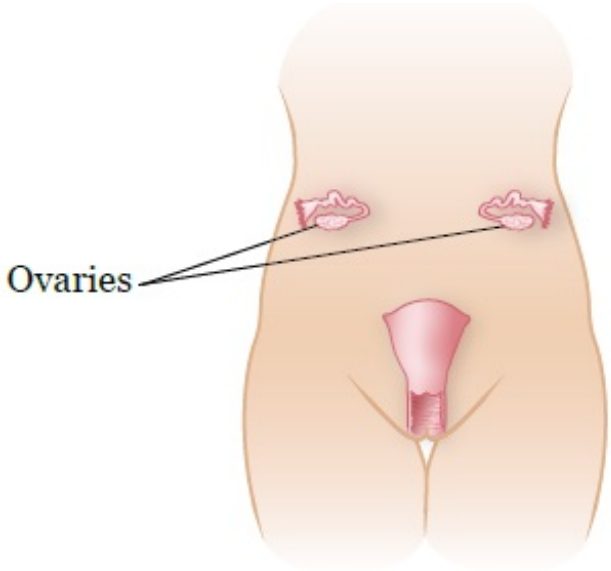


Figure 2. Location of ovaries after ovarian transposition surgery in adults

Having children after your cancer treatment

If you want to have children after your cancer treatment, here are some things you should know.

- If your ovaries and fallopian tubes are separated from your uterus during your ovarian transposition surgery, they can't be reconnected or moved back after your treatment is over. This means that you won't be able to get pregnant on your own. If you might want to get pregnant in the future, you

will need to see a reproductive endocrinologist (fertility specialist).

- Even if you have an ovarian transposition, your ovaries will still be exposed to some radiation. This can affect your chances of having biological children, especially if you're also getting chemotherapy.
- Some women have eggs collected and frozen before the surgery to improve their chances of having biological children. Ask your doctor if this is an option for you. If it is, and you're interested in this, ask for a referral to a reproductive endocrinologist .
- Depending on the dose of radiation you're getting, your uterus may be damaged. This could affect your ability to get pregnant or carry a child. Ask your radiation oncologist if you will be able to carry a pregnancy after your radiation therapy.

To learn more about fertility and fertility preservation, read *Fertility Preservation Before Cancer Treatment: Options for People Born with Ovaries and a Uterus* (www.mskcc.org/pe/fertility-starting-treatment).

Before your surgery

Presurgical testing (PST)

You'll have a PST appointment before your surgery. Your appointment may be an in-person visit or a video visit. You'll get a reminder from your surgeon's office with the appointment date, time, and location. Visit www.msk.org/parking for parking information and directions to all MSK locations.

You can eat and take your usual medicines the day of your appointment.

It's helpful to bring these things to your appointment:

- A list of all the medicines you're taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, patches, and creams.
- Results of any medical tests done outside of MSK in the past year, if you have them. Examples include results from a cardiac stress test, echocardiogram, or carotid doppler study.

- The names and telephone numbers of your healthcare providers.

You'll meet with an advance practice provider (APP) during your PST appointment. They work closely with MSK's anesthesiology (A-nes-THEE-zee-AH-loh-jee) staff. These are doctors with special training in using anesthesia during a surgery or procedure.

Your APP will review your medical and surgical history with you. You may have tests to plan your care, such as:

- An electrocardiogram (EKG) to check your heart rhythm.
- A chest X-ray.
- Blood tests.

Your APP may recommend you see other healthcare providers. They'll also:

- Talk with you about which medicines to take the morning of your surgery.
- Give you instructions for eating and drinking before your surgery.

You can find your preprocedure instructions (such as your medicine, eating, and drinking instructions) in your MSK MyChart account:

1. Log in to your MSK MyChart account. On the homepage, select "Visits."
2. Go to the "Past" or "Past visits" section and find your PST appointment. Select "View After Visit Summary."
3. Read the "Preprocedure Instructions" section in your After Visit Summary.

It is very important to follow these preprocedure instructions. If you do not follow them, your surgery may be delayed or canceled.

Ask about your medicines

You will need to stop taking some medicines before your surgery. Your nurse will give you the resource *How To Check if a Medicine or Supplement Has Aspirin, Other NSAIDs, Vitamin E, or Fish Oil* (www.mskcc.org/pe/check-med-supplement). It has important information about these medications and what

you can take instead.

There are some medicines that you may need to talk with your doctor about before your surgery. Some examples are listed in the following table:

Examples of blood thinners			
apixaban (Eliquis®)	dalteparin (Fragmin®)	meloxicam (Mobic®)	ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
aspirin	dipyridamole (Persantine®)	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (Advil®) or naproxen (Aleve®)	tinzaparin (Innohep®)
celecoxib (Celebrex®)	edoxaban (Savaysa®)	pentoxifylline (Trental®)	warfarin (Coumadin®)
cilostazol (Pletal®)	enoxaparin (Lovenox®)	prasugrel (Effient®)	
clopidogrel (Plavix®)	Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)	rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)	
dabigatran (Pradaxa®)	heparin (shot under your skin)	sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®)	

Please read *How To Check if a Medicine or Supplement Has Aspirin, Other NSAIDs, Vitamin E, or Fish Oil* (www.mskcc.org/pe/check-med-supplement). It has important information about medicines you'll need to avoid before your procedure and what medicines you can take instead.

Diabetes medicines

You may be taking insulin or other diabetes medicines. If so, talk with your MSK healthcare provider and the healthcare provider who prescribes it. Ask them what to do before your surgery or procedure. You may need to stop taking the medicine or take a different dose (amount) than usual. You may also need to follow different eating and drinking instructions before your surgery or procedure. Follow your healthcare provider's instructions.

Your care team will check your blood sugar levels during your surgery or procedure.

GLP-1 medicines for weight loss

It's important to tell your healthcare provider if you take a GLP-1 medicine. You must follow special eating and drinking instructions before your surgery or procedure. **It is very important to follow these instructions if you have taken a GLP-1 medicine at any time in the last 30 days. If you do not follow them, your surgery or procedure may be delayed or canceled.**

- **Start following a clear liquid diet at 6 a.m. the day before your surgery or procedure.** Do not eat any solid food. Read *Clear Liquid Diet* (www.mskcc.org/pe/clear-liquid-diet) to learn more.
- **Stop drinking 8 hours before your arrival time.** Do not eat or drink anything after this time, including clear liquids. You can have small sips of water with your medicines.

To learn more, read *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1).

Here are some examples of GLP-1 medicines. There are others, so be sure your care team knows all the medicines you take. Sometimes, these are prescribed to help manage diabetes or other conditions. Other times, they're prescribed for weight loss.

• Semaglutide (Wegovy®, Ozempic®, Rybelsus®) • Dulaglutide (Trulicity®)	• Tirzepatide (Zepbound®, Mounjaro®) • Liraglutide (Saxenda®, Victoza®)

Arrange for someone to take you home

You must have a responsible care partner take you home after your surgery. A responsible care partner is someone who can help you get home safely. They should be able to contact your care team if they have any concerns. Make sure to plan this before the day of your surgery.

If you don't have a responsible care partner to take you home, call one of the agencies below. They'll send someone to go home with you. There's a charge for this service, and you'll need to provide transportation. It's OK to use a taxi or car service, but you still need a responsible care partner with you.

Agencies in New York
VNS Health: 888-735-8913
Caring People: 877-227-4649

Agencies in New Jersey
Caring People: 877-227-4649

The day before your surgery

Note the time of your surgery

A staff member will call you after 2 p.m. the day before your surgery. If your surgery is scheduled for a Monday, they'll call you the Friday before. If you do not get a call by 7 p.m., call 212-639-5014.

The staff member will tell you what time to get to the hospital for your surgery. They'll also remind you where to go.

This will be at one of these locations:

• Presurgical Center (PSC) on the 2nd floor 1275 York Avenue (between East 67th and East 68th Streets) Take the M Elevator to the 2nd floor.	• Presurgical Center (PSC) on the 6th floor 1275 York Avenue (between East 67th and East 68th Streets) Take the B elevator to the 6th floor.
• Josie Robertson Surgery Center (JRSC) 1133 York Avenue (between East 61st and East 62nd Streets)	

Instructions for eating

Important: If you take a GLP-1 medicine, do not follow these instructions. Follow the instructions in *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1) instead.



Stop eating at midnight (12 a.m.) the night before your surgery or procedure. This includes hard candy and gum.

Your healthcare provider may have given you different instructions for when to stop eating. If so, follow their

instructions. Some people need to fast (not eat) for longer before their surgery or procedure.

The day of your surgery

Instructions for drinking

> **Important:** If you take a GLP-1 medicine, do not follow these instructions. Follow the instructions in *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1) instead.

Between midnight (12 a.m.) and 2 hours before your arrival time, only drink the liquids on the list below. Do not eat or drink anything else. Stop drinking 2 hours before your arrival time.

- Water.
- Clear apple juice, clear grape juice, or clear cranberry juice.
- Gatorade or Powerade.
- Black coffee or plain tea. It's OK to add sugar. Do not add anything else.
  - Do not add any amount of any type of milk or creamer. This includes plant-based milks and creamers.
  - Do not add flavored syrup.

If you have diabetes, pay attention to the amount of sugar in your drinks. It's easier to control your blood sugar levels if you include sugar-free, low-sugar, or no added sugar versions of these drinks.

It's helpful to stay hydrated before surgeries and procedures, so drink if you're thirsty. Do not drink more than you need. You'll get intravenous (IV) fluids during your surgery or procedure.



Stop drinking 2 hours before your arrival time. This includes water.

Your healthcare provider may have given you different instructions for when to stop drinking. If so, follow their instructions.

Things to remember

- Wear something comfortable and loose-fitting.
- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead. Wearing contact lenses during surgery can damage your eyes.
- Take only the medicine you were instructed to take the morning of your surgery. Take them with a few sips of water.
- Don't put on any lotion, cream, powder, deodorant, makeup, powder, or perfume.
- Don't wear any metal objects. Remove all jewelry, including body piercings.
- Leave valuables, such as credit cards and jewelry, at home.
- Before you're taken into the operating room, you will need to remove your hearing aid(s), dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, and religious articles.

Where to go

Check your appointment reminder, which will tell you where to go for your surgery.

What to expect

Once you arrive at the hospital, doctors, nurses, and other staff members will ask you to state and spell your name and date of birth many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar name may be having surgery on the same day.

You will change into a hospital gown and meet your nurse. They will place an intravenous (IV) line into a vein, usually in your hand or arm. At first you will get

fluids through the IV, but it will be used later to give you anesthesia (medication to make you sleepy). Your doctor will explain the surgery, and answer any questions you have. When it's time for your surgery, you will be brought into the operating room.

Once you're in the operating room, you will be attached to equipment to monitor your heart, breathing, and blood pressure. You will also receive oxygen through your nose or mouth. You will receive anesthesia through your IV to make you sleepy.

During your surgery, your surgeon will make a small incision (surgical cut) on your abdomen (belly). They will put a small, telescope-like tool into the incision to see the inside your body. A gas (carbon dioxide) will be pumped into your abdomen so that your surgeon has room to work.

Then, your surgeon will make more small incisions and place other small tools inside your body. The exact location and number of incisions depends on how the surgery is done.

Then, your ovaries and fallopian tubes will be moved as far as possible from the area being treated and held in place with sutures (stitches). You won't be able to feel your ovaries in the new position.

After your surgery

In the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

You'll be in the PACU when you wake up after your surgery. A nurse will keep track of your temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and oxygen levels. You may get oxygen through a tube resting below your nose or a mask over your nose and mouth. You may also have compression boots on your lower legs.

You will feel some pain after your surgery, but your nurse will give you medication to help. If your pain doesn't get better, tell your nurse.

You will have many small incisions on your abdomen. The incisions will be closed with Steri-Strips® (small strips of tape) or Dermabond® (surgical glue). Before you leave the hospital, your nurse will show you how to care for your incisions.

Most people can go home on the day of their surgery. You can go home once you:

- Can eat solid food. It may take many weeks for your appetite to return to what it was before your surgery.
- Can urinate (pee).
- Can walk.
- Aren't in too much pain.

At home

You can shower 24 hours (1 day) after your surgery.

Clean your incisions with soap and water every day. If you go home with Steri-Strips or Dermabond covering your incisions, you can shower with them on. The Steri-Strips will begin to peel off in about 1 week. If they haven't fallen off after 7 to 10 days, remove them in the shower. If you have Dermabond on your incisions, don't remove it. It will dissolve over time.

Bowel function

You may not have a bowel movement for a few days after surgery. This is normal. If you don't have a bowel movement for 3 days, call your doctor or nurse.

If you have diarrhea (loose, watery stools) call your doctor or nurse. Don't take an antidiarrheal medication, such as loperamide (Imodium®) or bismuth subsalicylate (Kaopectate®), until you talk with your doctor or nurse.

Activities after your surgery

It will take 2 to 4 weeks for your incisions to heal. Until your doctor or nurse has told you that your incisions have healed:

- Don't strain yourself or lift anything over 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms).
- Don't place anything in your vagina or have vaginal sex for 4 weeks or until your doctor tells you it's okay.

- Don’t drive if you’re taking prescription pain medications. If you aren’t taking prescription pain medications, you can drive 24 hours after your surgery.

If you’re traveling by plane within a few weeks after your surgery, get up and walk around every hour while you’re on the plane. Be sure to stretch your legs, drink plenty of liquids, and keep your feet raised whenever possible.

When to call your healthcare provider

Call your healthcare provider if you:

- Have swelling or tenderness in your calves or thighs.
- Have trouble breathing.
- Cough up blood.
- Have a fever of 101° F (38.3° C) or higher.
- Have serious abdominal pain that doesn’t get better after taking pain medicine.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you’re not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

About Your Ovarian Transposition Surgery - Last updated on May 13, 2026
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center