

POSTMENOPAUSAL UTERINE BLEEDING

What is it?

Bleeding similar to a menstrual period that occurs six months or more after menopause. A variety of conditions can cause this:

- * Reproductive system cancer.
- * Atrophy of vaginal lining or uterine lining (endometrium) which frequently occurs after menopause; problem worsens with advanced age.
- * Trauma to the atrophied, thin vaginal tissue may cause bleeding.
- * Cervical polyps or tumors.
- * Uterine tumors called myomas.
- * Vulvar irritation or infection.
- * Irregular use of prescription estrogens stimulates the endometrium to break down similar to what occurs during menstruation.
- * High blood pressure.
- * Congestive heart failure.
- * Use of aspirin or anticoagulants.
- * Liver disorder.
- * Blood clotting disorder.

It is possible that even after extensive testing, no clear-cut reason for the bleeding will be found.

Signs and symptoms:

- * Bleeding from the vagina. Color varies from light brown to dark red and the flow may be light or heavy, possibly with clots or mucus.
- * Pelvic pain may be present.
- * Anemia is a possibility.

CALL THE OFFICE IF:

you have bleeding that soaks a pad more often than one per hour, bleeding lasts longer than one week or new and unusual symptoms develop.