



*Southern  
Urogynecology*

Center for Incontinence and Female Pelvic Medicine

## **COLPOCLEISIS (LEFORT PROCEDURE) Closure of Vaginal Prolapse**

Pelvic organ prolapse is defined as relaxation of the bladder, uterus or vagina (if you have had a hysterectomy), and/or rectum. Often women present to the clinic with complaints of feeling a “bulge” at the vaginal opening, lower abdominal pressure, and low back ache often worse at the end of the day.

For women who do not wish to be sexually active in the future, and want the least invasive surgical approach to alleviating the prolapse, the colpocleisis procedure is a simple, safe, and effective surgical procedure that reliably relieves symptoms with less surgical risks than a complete vaginal suspension with reconstruction.

The colpocleisis procedure can sometimes be coupled with a midurethral sling procedure if urinary incontinence is also present. The colpocleisis procedure is done through the vagina and essentially closes the vagina from the inside. The patient can no longer engage in sexual intercourse due to the closing up of the vagina. The vaginal opening still looks normal from the outside, just the depth is shorter. Ideally the bladder, rectum, and bowels are suspended back into a normal position through this type of repair.

### **Colpocleisis is an extremely effective operation which:**

- Closes the vagina together
- Inhibits a patient from future sexual intercourse
- Has a 90-95% cure rate
- Is performed using local anesthesia, epidural or spinal anesthesia
- Takes ~1 hour to perform
- Has minimal pain or complications
- Can be coupled with a midurethral sling or urethral bulking agent for incontinence
- Requires women to spend the night in the hospital

Colpocleisis is an excellent operation for the treatment of uterine or vaginal vault prolapse for patients who are not sexually active and have no future plans for sexual activity, are medically fragile, or want the least risk and highest durability in a surgical repair.

If you decide you would like to pursue colpocleisis, you may need to have additional testing. An ultrasound may need to be done prior to the procedure if you have a uterus. One other test is the urodynamic study to assess bladder function. You will receive instructions for these tests once you have made a decision.