

Suspected endometriosis? No diagnosis after surgery

If you have suspected endometriosis, you may have a type of surgery called a laparoscopy. Following surgery you may be told that no endometriosis or cause of your symptoms was found during surgery. If this has happened, you may feel disappointed and concerned about your next steps. This leaflet offers information on your options and signposts to help and support.

What is a laparoscopy?

The aim of a laparoscopy is to diagnose and treat endometriosis. During a laparoscopy the surgeon will use a small camera called a laparoscope to look inside your abdomen (tummy) for signs of endometriosis. In some cases no endometriosis or cause of symptoms is found during surgery.

What happens now?

You may be referred elsewhere to have more scans or tests to investigate your symptoms. For example, if you have bowel symptoms you may be referred to a colorectal department. If you have bladder symptoms you may be referred to a urology department.

If you have no diagnosis and no cause of symptoms are found, you will be discharged back into the care of your GP who will help you manage your symptoms.

How will my symptoms be managed?

You may already be on medication to control your symptoms. If these are working for you there is no reason to stop.

Your GP can help you with symptom management. They may prescribe painkillers. They may also offer hormone treatments such as the pill. They can also help you access local services like pain clinics, occupational health or mental health services.

Can I get a second opinion?

Yes, if you want your symptoms investigated following surgery you can ask for a second opinion. Ask your GP to refer you to another gynaecologist or endometriosis specialist.

How we can help

If you're finding things difficult, we're here to help. Our trained volunteers can offer you quality information and emotional support through our network of support groups, helpline, webchat, and online forum.

Visit www.endometriosis-uk.org/get-support or Helpline: 0808 808 2227