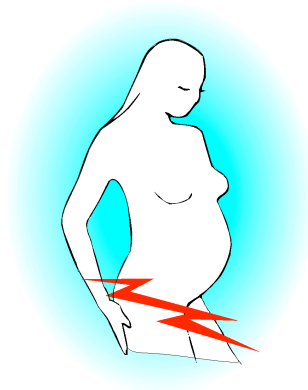


# Pelvic Pain in Women

## Overview, Causes, & Risk Factors

A woman's pelvis contains the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, vagina, bladder, and rectum. These organs are supported by soft tissue and ligaments which lie within the bony cradle of the pelvic girdle. Pelvic pain refers to any pain or discomfort in these areas of the body.



## What is going on in the body?

Pelvic pain is a common symptom in women. It is frequently, but not always, related to the reproductive system. Other causes of pelvic pain are related to the musculoskeletal system, the intestines or urinary tract. Sometimes conditions may mask the symptoms of another underlying condition. Psychological factors (stress and lack of acknowledgment and support) can make the pain seem worse. All pelvic pain should be attended to.

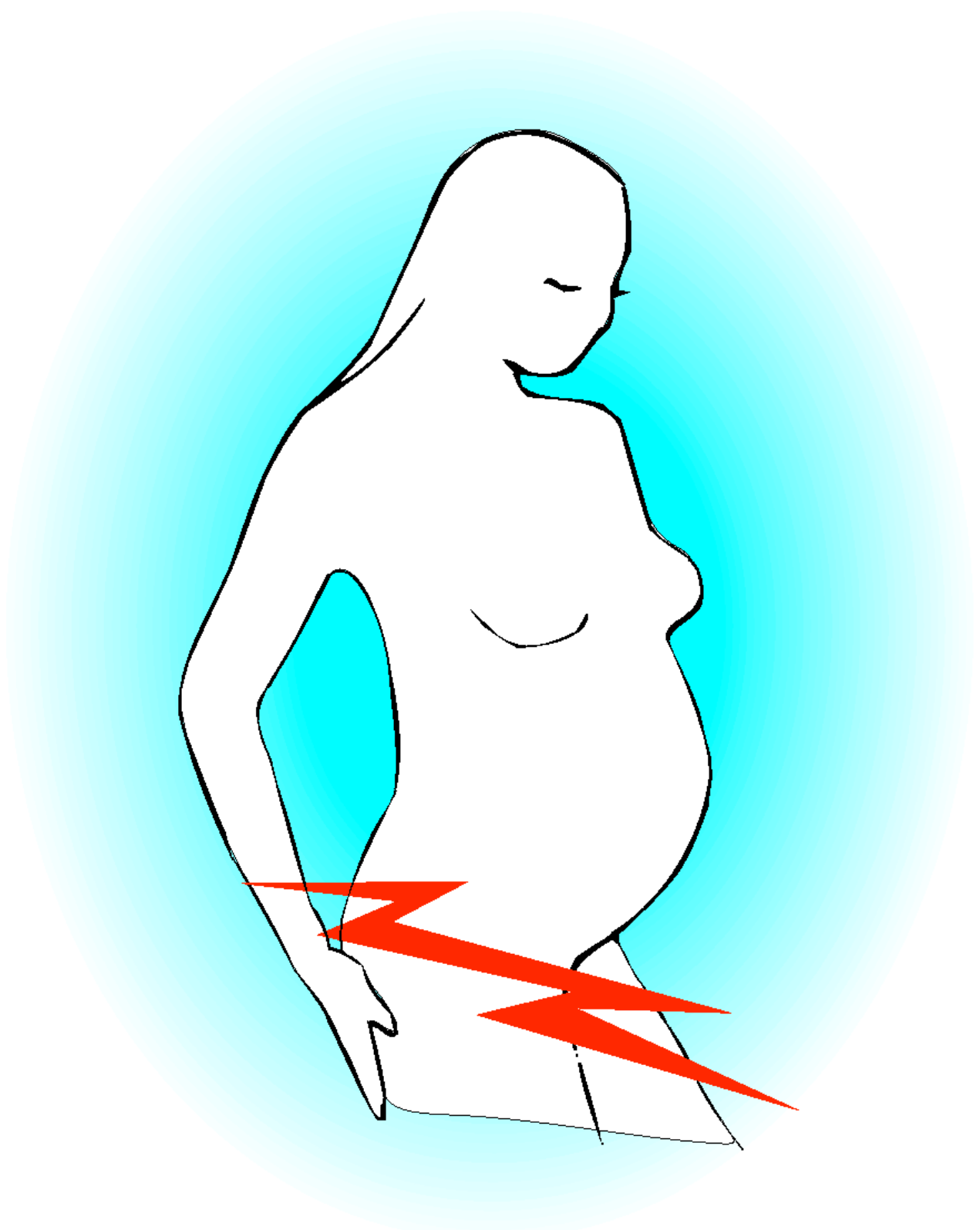
Pelvic pain can range from mild discomfort or cramping, to severe, intense pain. This pain may be acute, when it occurs suddenly, or chronic, when the pain lasts for a long period of time.

## Causes and risks of the condition?

Pelvic pain in females has many causes including:

- \* [endometriosis](#), a disorder in which patches of endometrial tissue (normally found only in the lining of the uterus) grow outside the uterus
- \* [pelvic adhesions](#), which are fibrous bands holding parts together that are usually separate
- \* [Mittelschmerz](#), which is pain in the middle of the menstrual cycle caused by ovulation, sometimes accompanied by spotting.
- \* [menstrual cramping](#)
- \* [ectopic pregnancy](#), a pregnancy in which the fetus develops outside of the uterus
- \* [incarcerated uterus](#), where the fundus of the expanding uterus becomes trapped in the pelvis, preventing it from rising into the abdomen. This pressure can result in miscarriage if not recognised and freed.
- \* [miscarriage](#)
- \* [ovarian cysts](#)
- \* [twisted ovary](#)
- \* [uterine fibroid](#), a noncancerous growth that occurs in the wall of the uterus
- \* [pelvic inflammatory disease](#) (PID), an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and adjacent pelvic structures. PID is commonly caused by a [sexually transmitted disease](#) that is not treated quickly and effectively.
- \* [irritable bowel syndrome](#)
- \* [diverticulosis](#), a saclike protrusion of any part of the digestive tract, usually in the large intestine
- \* [gastroenteritis](#), a general term for a group of conditions caused by infection in the digestive tract
- \* [appendicitis](#), or inflammation of the appendix
- \* [abscess](#), or an accumulation of pus usually caused by a bacterial infection
- \* [peritonitis](#), an inflammation usually caused by an infection of the lining of the abdomen
- \* [colon cancer](#) or [ovarian cancer](#)
- \* [urinary tract infection](#)
- \* [kidney stones](#)
- \* [hernia](#), or a bulging of internal organs or tissues through an abnormal opening in the muscle wall
- \* vascular disorders such as [DVT \(deep vein thrombosis\)](#), [haemorrhoids](#), [vulval varicosities](#)
- \* musculoskeletal disorders, such as a misalignment or shifting of the pelvic bones, or a displaced coccyx
- \* psychological factors, such as [stress](#)

Other causes are also possible. In some cases, the cause is never found.



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