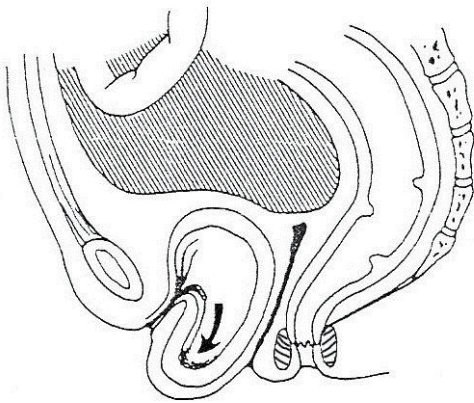
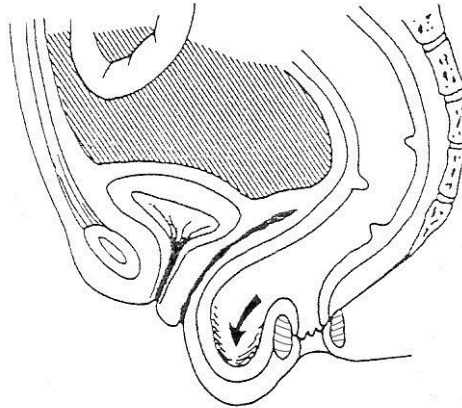


# Pelvic Prolapse

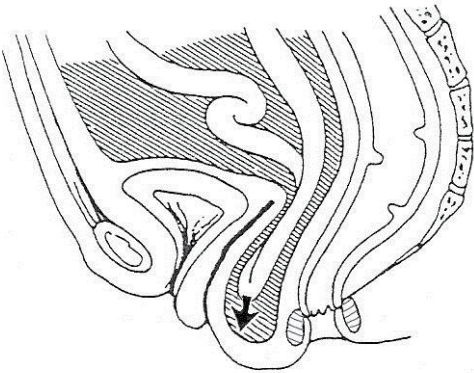
## *Symptoms and Treatment*



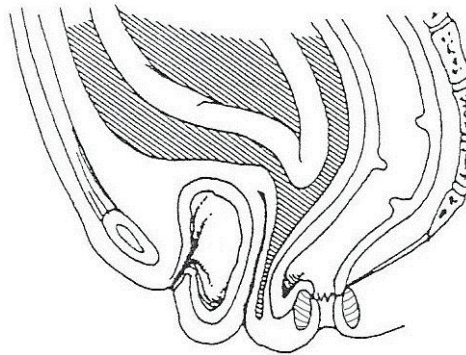
**CYSTOCELE**



**RECTOCELE**



**ENTEROCELE**



**COMBINED**

To make an appointment or ask a question, call the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at **617-636-6190**.

For urgent problems, call the Tufts Medical Center operator at **617-636-5000** and ask for the on-call physician for Colon and Rectal Surgery.

**Tufts** Medical Center

800 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
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*Pelvic prolapse includes several conditions that occur when pelvic organs bulge down into or out of the vagina or rectum. Most pelvic prolapse occurs in women.*

Factors that may increase the risk of pelvic prolapse include:

- ▶ advancing age
- ▶ multiple or difficult deliveries
- ▶ injury to the pelvic organs or muscles
- ▶ smoking
- ▶ use of steroid medications
- ▶ chronic lung disease

Although many women develop some degree of pelvic prolapse as they age, many do not need treatment.

Medical treatment may include pelvic floor exercises, vaginal creams (usually containing estrogen) or use of a pessary (vaginal support ring).

Surgery is reserved for significant symptoms and worsening of the prolapse.

## DIAGNOSES

Pelvic prolapse may include any of the following specific conditions:

- ▶ **Rectocele:** bulging of the rectum into the vagina
- ▶ **Cystocele:** bulging of the bladder into the vagina
- ▶ **Enterocoele:** bulging of loops of small intestine into the vagina
- ▶ **Sigmoidocele:** bulging of the sigmoid colon into the vagina
- ▶ **Urinary incontinence:** unable to control urine
- ▶ **Fecal incontinence:** unable to control stool or gas
- ▶ **Constipation**
- ▶ **Uterine prolapse**
- ▶ **Rectal prolapse**
- ▶ **Vaginal prolapse**

## REPAIRS

Surgery may include:

- ▶ Rectocele repair — rectal approach
- ▶ Rectocele repair — vaginal approach
- ▶ Rectocele repair — abdominal approach
- ▶ Cystocele repair
- ▶ TVT — transvaginal tape repair
- ▶ Rectal prolapse repair — abdominal
- ▶ Rectal prolapse repair — perineal
- ▶ Perineoplasty
- ▶ Other

**NORMAL FEMALE PELVIS**  
Side View

