

Posterior Repair Information Sheet

General indications for the proposed procedure/treatment: Rectocele is when the rectum bulges into the vagina. Enterocele is when the small intestine bulges into the vagina. The goal of surgery is to repair the problem and relieve the symptoms.

Description of Procedure:

To correct a rectocele, a posterior repair is done through the vagina. The rectum is restored to its normal position. Sutures (stitches) are placed between the vagina and the rectum. An enterocele can also be corrected during the posterior repair. To do this, the small intestine is moved away from the vagina. Sutures are then used to tie off the excess tissue that had bulged into the vagina. During surgery, the doctor reaches the pelvic organs through the vagina.

Risk of the Procedure:

Posterior repair is a relatively safe procedure that carries a small risk of complications, including, bleeding, infection, risks of anesthesia, and blood clots. There is also a risk of damage to nerves, muscles, or nearby pelvic structures. There may also be a prolapse of the pelvic organ or organs occurring again

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

There are no alternatives for a posterior repair surgery.

Probable consequences of Refusing Procedure:

The probable consequence of refusing this procedure is the continued bulging of organs into the vagina. Symptoms may also persist.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The key portions of the procedure will be performed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center and/or a resident/fellow who is observed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff. Residents/Fellows are licensed physicians in approved residency or post residency training programs. Parts of the procedure which they perform will be based on their level of competency.