

WHAT HAPPENS DURING UAE?

Before and during the procedure, you will receive medication for pain relief and to make you feel relaxed. You will stay awake throughout the procedure.

The doctor will insert a thin tube (catheter) into the artery either at the left wrist or at the top of one leg and advance it to the arteries that supply the uterus. Once the tube is in place, the doctor will inject a special dye (contrast) that can be seen on X-rays. This is so the doctor can see the arteries that bring blood to the fibroid. Next, the doctor will inject tiny particles into the artery to block the blood flow to the fibroid. Without this blood supply, the fibroid shrinks over time.

The procedure takes about 1 hour. You will likely stay in the hospital overnight, where nurses can check on you and make sure you are recovering well.

WHO WILL BE DOING THE UAE?

UAE is performed by a doctor known as an interventional radiologist. Interventional radiologists are specially trained using X-ray equipment and placing fine catheters which are passed into blood vessels, through the skin. This makes them the best trained doctors to perform a UAE.

MORE INFORMATION

ADDRESS

The Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Square,
Dublin 1, D01 P5W9

CONTACT US

The Rotunda Hospital | General
enquiries: 01 817 1700 |
Gynaecology Unit: 01 817 1700
(ext. 9300) | Gynaecology
outpatient appointments: 01 873
0596 | Website: rotunda.ie



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

UTERINE ARTERY EMBOLISATION (UAE)

What you should know



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

WHAT IS UTERINE ARTERY EMBOLISATION (UAE)?

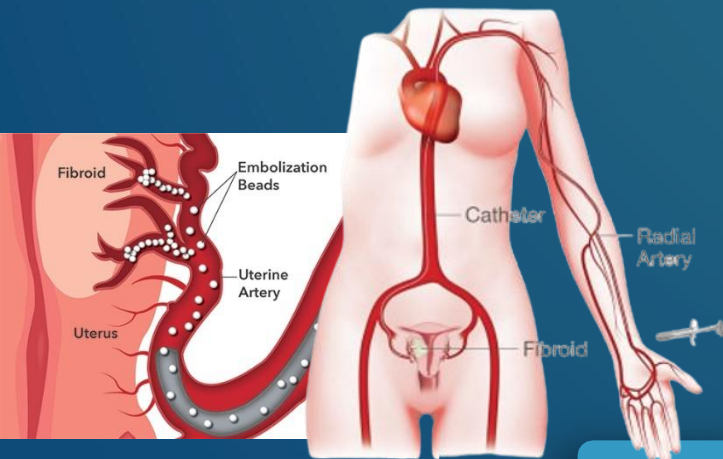
Uterine artery embolisation (UAE) is a non-surgical treatment for fibroids. Fibroids are common, non-cancerous (benign) growths of tissue that form in the uterus. The uterus is the part of the body that holds the baby when a woman is pregnant.

UAE works by blocking the blood vessels that supply blood to fibroids, causing them to shrink. It is one of several ways doctors treat fibroids.

WHY MIGHT A PERSON GET UAE?

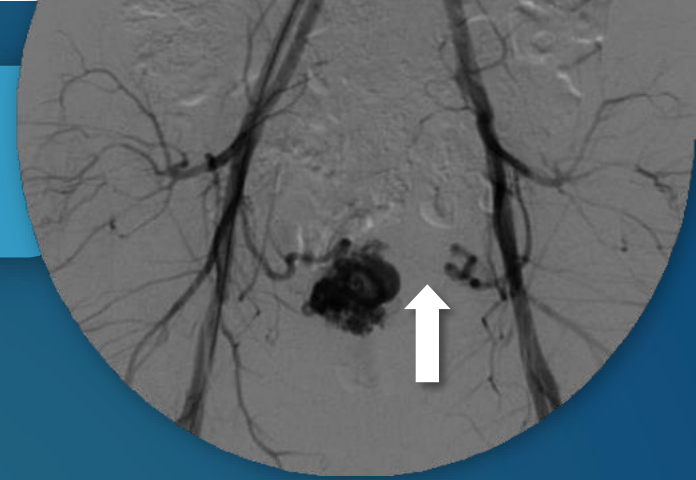
UAE helps ease the heavy bleeding and lower belly pressure caused by fibroids. Compared with surgery to treat fibroids, UAE:

- Takes less time
- Does not require any cuts (incisions) in the belly
- Has a shorter recovery time



This is a simplified drawing of what uterine artery embolisation looks like.

This is an example of what the doctor sees following a successful uterine artery embolisation. Shown by the white arrow, you can see a gap between the uterus and the artery meaning the artery is blocked.



HOW DO I PREPARE FOR UAE?

You will need to remain in hospital as an inpatient for the UAE procedure. You will be asked not to eat any food for six hours before the procedure; however, water is permitted to drink. UAE involves access into an artery which could be obtained from the wrist or the groin. If the groin is going to be used, you may be asked to shave the hair from that area of skin. If you are allergic to anything, you must let your doctor know beforehand.

Upon arrival to the hospital, you will be given a hospital gown to wear. If you are anxious about the procedure, the hospital may provide you with sedative medication to relieve your anxiety. An intravenous line will be placed in one of your veins to give you fluids and medications that control pain.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF UAE?

In the months following UAE, most women get symptom relief and reduction in fibroid size. Reduction in heavy bleeding, urinary incontinence and abdominal enlargement are commonly seen.

After the procedure, it is normal for your menstrual periods to either remain the same or become inconsistent for a few months. A small number of women, usually those already close to menopause, may stop having periods after the procedure.

WHAT ARE DOWNSIDES OF UAE?

The most common complaint is lower belly pain and cramping after the procedure. These symptoms are usually most noticeable the first 2 to 7 days following the procedure. Some people have discharge or bleeding from their vagina for 2 weeks after UAE. Sometimes, this bleeding can last for months. Some people also experience:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Feel tired and sore
- Fever

Some women treated with UAE later need a further procedure or treatment to manage ongoing symptoms. Your doctor can help you decide if UAE is right for you.

WHAT IF I WANT TO GET PREGNANT?

It is possible to get pregnant after UAE. Some women who could not become pregnant before the procedure may become pregnant afterwards. Despite this, pregnancy might not be safe for you or your baby following the procedure. If having a baby in the future is very important to you, you need to discuss this with your doctor.