

Glossary

- **Ablation** — A surgical procedure, usually minimally invasive, that removes or destroys unwanted tissue using electromagnetic radiation, lasers, temperature, chemicals, or electricity
- **Adenomyosis** — A medical condition in which tissue that normally lines the uterus (endometrial tissue) grows into the muscular wall of the uterus
- **Asymptomatic** — A condition producing or showing no symptoms or signs of illness
- **Embolization** — A minimally invasive treatment for bleeding that blocks blood vessels, preventing blood flow to targeted areas (e.g., fibroids)
- **Endometriosis** — A gynecological disease in which tissue similar to that which lines the uterus grows outside the uterus where it does not belong
- **Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists and antagonists** — Man-made versions of the naturally produced pituitary hormone GnRH that modifies its action in the body. Agonists initially produce a rise in GnRH (and an increase in estrogen levels), followed by a profound decrease. Antagonists directly inhibit GnRH without a rise in estrogen.
- **Hysterectomy** — Surgical removal of the uterus. A partial or subtotal hysterectomy removes the upper uterus, and a total hysterectomy removes the entire uterus, sometimes with the cervix and ovaries.
- **Leiomyoma** — A non-malignant growth composed of smooth muscle and fibrous connective tissue in the uterus (also known as a uterine fibroid)
- **Magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS)** — A noninvasive procedure that uses to MRI to visualize and guide an ultrasound beam to penetrate and destroy the soft tissue composition of fibroid growths
- **Menopause** — A natural life stage, typically in a woman's 40s or 50s, defined as 12 months after the last menstrual cycle. Surgical procedures that damage or remove the ovaries can also result in the onset of menopause, regardless of age.
- **Menses** — Vaginal bleeding resulting from the shedding of uterine lining as the ovum releases mature eggs, on average lasting 3–7 days; also known as a period or menstruation.
- **Minimally invasive surgery** — Any surgical procedure that is performed through tiny incisions instead of a large opening, often reducing hospital stay and recovery time.
- **Myomectomy** — A surgical procedure to remove fibroids from the uterus; also known as fibroidectomy
- **Open surgery** — Surgical procedure that cuts the skin and tissues, allowing the surgeon to have full view of the organs involved. Incisions can be 3 to 4 inches or larger.
- **Pelvic exam** — A physical exam of the vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, and rectum
- **Perimenopause** — A natural decline in reproductive hormones, typically in a woman's 40s or 50s, that results in the end of her menstrual cycles; also known as the menopause transition
- **Ultrasound** — An imaging method that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce images of structures within the body