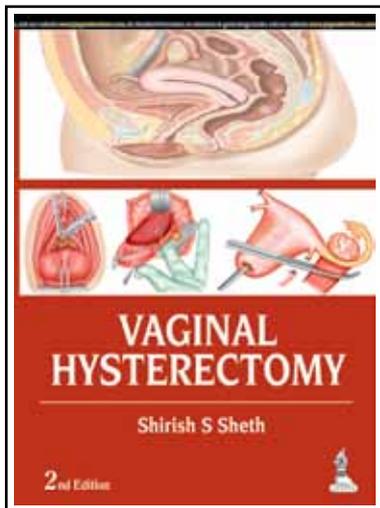


Book Review



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Vaginal Hysterectomy

Vaginal hysterectomy is a natural orifice surgery, hence, sans a scar. It is a surgical procedure essential for the gynecologist to master. The indications are no longer restricted to prolapsed uteri. They have broadened to nondescent uteri as well as malignant uteri. Dr Shirish S Sheth has a vast experience of performing vaginal hysterectomies in the most challenging situations. His deft surgical technique makes the procedure look simple even in presence of associated pelvic pathology.

The second edition of his book is a complete guide to the procedure, its expanding indications, and contraindications. The technique is outlined in detail with ample illustrations in each section for ease of understanding. I particularly enjoyed reading the historical perspective.

There are sections on vaginal hysterectomy in the nulliparous patients, high-risk patients, patients with previous abdominopelvic surgery, and those in whom the abdominal route is contraindicated as well as the difficult hysterectomy. These sections provide clear guidelines to the reader. Associated procedures like oophorectomy at the time of surgery and tackling uterine myomas as well as concomitant adnexal pathology are also discussed. The role of sacrospinous colpopexy in vaginal hysterectomy and the cosmetic rationale, that is, thermal resurfacing of vaginal epithelium and reconstructing the labia majora and minora is of particular interest.

Editor

Shirish S Sheth MD FRCOG (Ad Eundem) FACOG (Hon)
FACS FICS FCPS FICOG FAMS FSOGC (Hon)

Consultant Gynecologist, Breach Candy Hospital
Sir Harkisondas Hospital and Saifee Hospital
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

The field of cosmetogynecology is rapidly expanding and these concomitant procedures are in demand.

Complications arising from the procedure, morbidity and mortality are elaborated in detail with tips on how they can be avoided by crucial preoperative assessment. The hybrid hysterectomy with laparoscopic/mini-laparotomy assistance may be required in special circumstances as well as to prevent complications.

The author has included chapters on anesthesia for the procedure as well as associated nongynecological surgery that can be combined with vaginal hysterectomy like laparoscopic cholecystectomy, appendectomy as well as abdominal hernia repair. This is now increasingly requested by patients but sometimes hard to comply with.

The 345 odd pages have numerous illustrations by way of live surgical pictures, figures, and drawings. Many chapters are contributed by Dr Shirish S Sheth himself and others are by national and international surgeons of repute. The language is easy to understand and the subject of vaginal hysterectomy is covered in its entirety. It is a reference book that will be cherished by practicing gynecologists, surgeons, postgraduate teachers and students.

Mala Arora FRCOG (UK) FICOG FICMCH
Director, Noble IVF Centre
Faridabad, Haryana, India
Consultant, Fortis La Femme
Greater Kailash, New Delhi, India