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Minimal Invasive Treatment for Uterine Fibroids

Uterine fibroids may be associated with significant premenopausal bleeding and bulk symptoms such as pelvic pain, bladder pressure, and abnormally enlarged abdomen. In the past, hysterectomy and myomectomy have been performed to eliminate or reduce the symptoms. Over the past 10 years, uterine artery embolization (UAE) has become an effective minimally invasive method of treatment of symptomatic fibroids. In more recent studies, embolization has also been found effective in patients with adenomyosis.

In this procedure, the interventional radiologist selectively catheterizes the arterial branches that supply the fibroids and places small microembolic particles into the feeders, thus shutting down the blood supply to the fibroids. The procedure generally takes 1-2 hours in the cath lab and the patient is admitted for a short overnight stay for pain management and discharged the next day. The patient is almost always able to resume normal activities within a week.

To determine if your patient with symptomatic fibroids is eligible for this procedure, please contact our interventional radiologists, Dr. Lokesh Arora or Dr. Amir Ronaghi, at 714-378-7520.

In general, patients will need to have an initial pelvic ultrasound followed by a contrast pelvic MRI to determine if the fibroids have significant vascularity and thus amenable for UAE.

The interventional radiologists of South Coast Radiological Medical Group have been pioneers of uterine artery embolization in Orange County and now have one of the largest group of treated patients in Southern California. The treatment has been highly effective. Both Drs. Arora and Ronaghi trained at UCLA, the original investigational medical center for uterine artery embolization in the United States.