

Normal uterine corpus

Patient Information Series – What you should know, what you should ask.

What is it?

The uterus is the woman's reproductive organ. It is in the pelvis between the bladder (anteriorly) and the rectum (posteriorly). In the fertile woman, the uterus is about 7 cm long, 5 cm wide and weighs about 600 grams. The uterus is the organ that enables the nutrition of the fetus, protects it and finally determines its expulsion at the time of delivery. Inferiorly, the uterine corpus continues with the cervix. The upper uterine portion is called the fundus, on either side of which the fallopian tubes originate. In 80 percent of women, the uterus shows a flexion toward the abdominal wall, resulting in a physiological condition called anteversion. In 20% the uterus is tilted toward the pelvis, a condition called retroversion. The uterine wall consists of smooth muscle tissue, called the myometrium, which encloses the uterine cavity. The uterine cavity is lined by glandular epithelium, called the endometrium, which under the action of female sex hormones undergoes changes each month allowing for the menstrual cycle. The outer lining of the uterus is the peritoneum.

Last updated March 2024