Washington University physicians offer a proven, non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy for treatment of uterine fibroids.

Candidates for UFE include women who:

- Have been diagnosed with symptomatic uterine fibroids
- Desire to keep their uterus
- Don’t want or may not be a good candidate for surgery
- Wish to avoid a blood transfusion for health or religious reasons
- Have completed child-bearing (desire for fertility does not preclude UFE treatment)

Is UFE covered by insurance? Uterine fibroid embolization is covered by most insurance plans for patients experiencing symptoms associated with their fibroids.

Is this a clinical trial? This is not a clinical study. UFE is a proven treatment for uterine fibroids currently offered by Washington University physicians.

Consultation location
Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital
One Barnes-Jewish Plaza, 6th floor, St. Louis, MO 63110
Scheduling: (314) 362-2900

Procedure locations
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
1 Barnes-Jewish Plaza, 8th floor, St. Louis, MO 63110
Interventional radiology: (314) 362-2900

Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital
12634 Olive Blvd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141
Interventional radiology: (314) 362-2900

Washington University interventional radiologists specializing in varicose vein ablation:
Gretchen Foltz, MD
Jennifer Gould, MD
Seung Kwon Kim, MD
Seth Klein, MD
Naganathan Mani, MD
Nael Saad, MD
Darryl Zuckerman, MD
How does the procedure work? Uterine fibroid embolization involves inserting a catheter into the uterine artery through a small incision at the top of your thigh. Once in place, tiny particles, called microspheres, are injected through the catheter to block blood supply to the fibroid(s) causing them to shrink and soften.

Patients are awake but sedated during the procedure, which typically lasts about one hour. Because some women experience moderate cramping, they are admitted to the hospital overnight to ensure their comfort.

Advantages of UFE:
- Preserves your uterus
- Minimally invasive procedure
- No general anesthesia or large incisions
- Shorter recovery time and less pain compared to other surgical treatments
- Less medical risk compared to other surgical treatments
- Less expensive than most surgeries
- UFE is covered by most insurance

What is the success rate of UFE? Uterine fibroid embolization is an effective procedure with minimal risk. Resolution of symptoms depends on the type of symptoms experienced and size of the fibroid(s). In clinical studies, patients indicated a greater than 90% symptom resolution within three to 12 months.