

# Genital Prolapse

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## INTRODUCTION

Prolapse uterus is a common condition frequently encountered by the gynaecologists in their clinical practice. It is generally recognised that pelvic floor relaxation is a progressive process and menopause accelerates it. Women suffering from urogenital prolapse may experience significant disruption of their recreational, professional, social and sexual activities.

Whilst usually not life-threatening, prolapse is often symptomatic and associated with deterioration in quality of life and may cause bladder and bowel dysfunction. Increased life expectancy and an expanding elderly population mean that prolapse remains an important condition, especially

since the majority of women may now spend a third of their lives in the postmenopausal state. Surgery for urogenital prolapse accounts for approximately 20% of elective major gynaecological surgeries and this increases to 59% in elderly women. The lifetime risk of having surgery for prolapse is 11%; a third of these procedures are operations for recurrent prolapse. The economic cost of urogenital prolapse is considerable.<sup>1</sup>

## DEFINITION

The word 'prolapse' is derived from the Latin word *pro-* and *-lapse*, which means 'to fall'. It is defined as the downward displacement or protrusion of pelvic structures in the