

OB/GYNs

more than just baby doctors



Introduction

It is a common misconception that women should see a gynecologist only when they are pregnant or trying to get pregnant. For many people with female-assigned reproductive systems, a gynecologist serves the very important role of being their primary care physician as well as their specialist. There are also many subspecialties within the umbrella of OBGYN that apply to people with a variety of health needs. Understanding the different areas of gynecologic medicine may be a helpful factor in determining what kind of care you may need from a gynecologist.

Main Specialties of Gynecology

Gynecologic Oncology

Gynecologic oncology is primarily concerned with treating cancers of the reproductive system.

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) specialists primarily work with patients undergoing high-risk pregnancies or patients that may be at risk for pregnancy complications.

Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

Pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery specialists provide care regarding disorders of the genitourinary system, such as pelvic floor disorders or vaginismus.

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Specialists in endocrinology and infertility work on providing fertility treatments for patients through methods such as hormone treatments.

Other Areas of Gynecology

Complex Family Planning

Family planning specialists provide abortion services and family planning consultations for patients.

Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

Pediatric and adolescent gynecology specialists provide care for younger patients as they experience puberty and bodily changes.

Menopausal and Geriatric Gynecology

Menopausal and geriatric gynecology specialists provide care for older patients who are entering early stages of menopause or may be well into menopause and require care with menopausal symptoms.



This list is in no way exhaustive and these areas of gynecology do not necessarily stand alone either. In fact, there are many areas of overlap between these specialties in gynecologic medicine, and any one physician may have multiple areas of specialty that work for you and your medical needs.

Additional Resources

[American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)

[Chicago Medicine](#)

[American College of Surgeons](#)