

## Bump on vaginal lip. Bartholin's cyst abscess

Contributed by Aleksandr Kavokin, MD, PhD and Northern Light Press

A woman asked me on the forum: What do I think about her problem.

"Also, a small bump (like an ingrown hair- but no hair) has formed on the inside lip of my vagina. "

Well there are plenty of things that could be over there. It is hard to guess out without looking at that. However, one thing, which I would keep in mind, is Bartholin's cyst. Let's look what is this.

Bartholin's Gland Cyst Quiz  
Bartholin's Gland Cyst Quiz -Wireless

Writes Northern Light Press:

"I never fail to be amazed at the complexity of the female anatomy. Males have, with a few notable exceptions, fairly straightforward construction and functionality. Tolerance levels for the mal-function of one system keep others from being dramatically impacted. By contrast, the female anatomy is a seeming puzzle of interlocked parts and mechanisms. From a man's perspective, one small problem can crash the entire woman's body. Females are space shuttles to the lawnmowers that are men.

One such issue I recently learned of from a close friend is the blockage that can occur in the Bartholin's Gland. Usually affecting women in their twenties, a blockage in the secretions from this gland can result in a cyst or abscess, sometimes requiring minor surgery to correct. More serious cases can result in the complete removal of the affected gland, known as a marsupialization procedure.

The gland is located in the superficial perineal pouch of the vagina. The purpose of the gland's function is still largely undetermined. It secretes a liquid once thought to be required for sexual lubrication. That function is now disputed and the secretions have been found to contain pheromonal hormones, suggesting a role in sexual attraction.

Women who experience this blockage and subsequent formation of a cyst may have trouble walking or engaging in intercourse without pain in the area. Swelling in the affected region can be sensitive to even the slightest pressure. Doctors usually perform an in-office catheterization to relieve the pressure and drain the gland's fluid build-up. Post-menopausal women may also undergo a biopsy to determine the presence of cancer cells.

The Bartholin's Gland was first discovered by a Danish physician, Caspar Bartholin, in the 17th century. After first isolating the glands in cows, Bartholin went on to describe their appearance in the human female. His anatomical descriptions were among the most widely read in Renaissance Europe. Discovery of the gland is among his few original works, however, and he spent much of his scholarly time teaching or responding to the progress of other researchers.

My female friend, who happened to find herself in the unlucky two percent of all women estimated to contract a Bartholin's cyst, took these facts with the usual female aplomb. Hers was not a serious case and the doctor advised more observation before resorting to the intrusive catheter method. Early stages of a cyst may require nothing more than a warm bath or moist towel to provide relief. Cysts which continue to grow, sometimes reaching the size of an orange, provoke such pain as to require immediate attention.

Aside from the physical discomfort, the infections causing the cysts can be sexually transmitted. This transmission will not induce a similar cyst in the male counterpart organ, known as the Cowper's Gland, but could then be transmitted to a different female partner. For this reason, sexual activity is discouraged until the Bartholin's cyst is fully drained and any prescribed antibiotics have been utilized.

Like yeast infections, a Bartholin's cyst is a manageable annoyance for women of reproductive age. Most commonly found in African-Americans and Caucasians, yet rarely seen in Hispanics, women who contract one are more likely to endure it again. Such recurrence has even been linked to menstruation cycles and thus some women elect complete removal of the gland. This not only eliminates a recurring and painful infection, it can also reduce the chances of cancer in the gland as the woman ages.

My friend successfully recovered from her cyst and her space shuttle-like anatomy improved as well. Not tolerating my

repeated "I'm glad I'm a man" declarations throughout her ordeal, she rightly pointed out that my age made me likely to start encountering prostate issues and other breakdowns of the male anatomy. Even lawnmowers need regular maintenance and repair."

Okay.

Yeah, just wanted to mention that marsupialization is not actually a removal of the cyst,

It is rather a sort of making a big oval window into the cyst (cyst is a bag) to allow it to drain easier (compare to original very small opening) and some suturing of the edges of that window.

You know those marsupial animals in Australia. Kangaroos, koalas, etc.

They have bags (pouches).

So, I think making a sort of bag (pouch) out of the cyst should be named marsupialization

To learn more, Take a quiz:

Bartholin's Gland Cyst Quiz  
Bartholin's Gland Cyst Quiz -Wireless

You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.

Tags: Bartholin gland abscess gyn lump vagina f disease erythema rash medicine diagnose diagnosis quiz symptoms itch