



KAISER PERMANENTE®

## URO-GYNECOLOGY PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

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### RECTOCELE

You have what is known as a rectocele (pronounced: rect-oh-seal). This is a condition where the rectum (which lies right underneath the vagina) "bulges" or presses into the vagina. The normal tissue, which is supposed to keep the rectum in its normal place, has become weakened or detached.

Some women have symptoms as if "stool gets stuck" and difficulty completely emptying the bowels. Some women have no symptoms at all.

If the rectocele is quite large, there's a chance that there is some other bowel in the bulge besides the rectum. This would be called an "enterocele" (pronounced: enter-oh-seal). Usually we find it and repair it during surgery.

The surgical success rates of a rectocele repair range from 70% - 85 % success, depending on the quality of the tissues and the extent of the tissue damaged.

Postoperatively, there is not much pain. The most difficult thing is the initial bowel movements – having them without too much straining.