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surgery.com

Fibroid Tumors

What Are My Options?

written by:

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Founder/Medical Director
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Founder/Medical Director

Tirso del Junco Jr., M.D.

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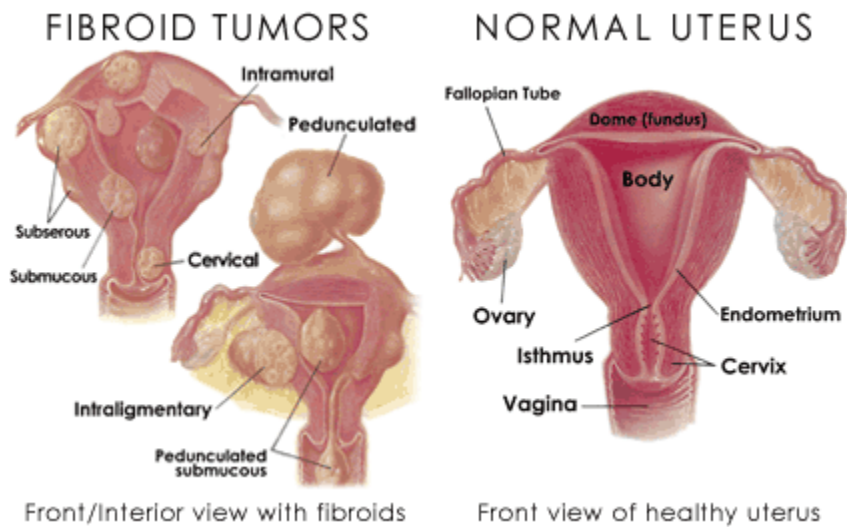
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FIBROID TUMORS

Also known as leiomyomas, myomas or fibroids, these tumors are by far the most common benign uterine tumor. They are usually diagnosed upon examination. They may be subserosal, intramucosal, or submucosal in location. They can occur as a single tumor but often are multiple; their consistency ranges from hard and stoney to soft and rubbery.

WHAT CAUSES FIBROID TUMORS?

The cause of fibroids is unknown. There is evidence of increased incidence within families. Hormonal influence is significant, particularly estrogen, which stimulates fibroid growth. Fibroids have the potential to enlarge during pregnancy, as well as to regress after menopause.

HOW COMMON ARE FIBROID TUMORS?

Fibroids are the most common gynecological tumor in women. Clinical studies show that 20-25% of women of reproductive age have fibroids. Post-mortem studies show the incidence in all women is as high as 75%. Although these tumors are for the most part benign, there can be a malignancy rate of 0.1-0.2%. Studies show that these benign tumors (also known as fibroids, leiomyomas, fibromas or myomas) are 4-6 times more common in African American women than in Caucasian women, which suggests a possible genetic predisposition.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF FIBROID TUMORS?

Symptoms vary greatly. Some women are fortunate enough to be completely asymptomatic, but their fibroids are usually insignificant in size. Most women experience at least one of the following complaints or side effects:

- Pelvic Pain
- Increased menstrual cramps
- Increased menstrual flow
- Clots
- Irregular or painful periods
- Increased urinary frequency
- Constipation
- Bloating

HOW ARE FIBROID TUMORS DIAGNOSED?

Fibroids are frequently diagnosed when an enlarged, irregularly shaped uterus is identified during a pelvic exam. This is confirmed most commonly by ultrasound and less frequently by CT scan.

CAN FIBROID TUMORS CAUSE INFERTILITY?

3-12% of fibroids are attributed as the primary cause of infertility. Complications or loss of pregnancy can occur in women with fibroids, although most afflicted women have uncomplicated pregnancies and delivery. Fibroid tumors can block the fallopian tubes, which can lead to primary infertility. However, studies support the fact that if conception is successful, only 10-15% of women will have complications during pregnancy.

CAN FIBROID TUMORS BE TREATED WITHOUT SURGERY?

There is no way to completely remove fibroids successfully without surgery. We know that menopause has an effect on fibroids by decreasing their size, but the fibroids never completely disappear.

CAN FIBROID TUMORS REOCCUR?

As noted in multiple sections in this Website, recurrence rates in traditional myomectomy patients range from 12-64%. With FAS, we are reporting a 1-3% recurrence rate. Age plays an important role because the closer the patient is to menopause the lower her rate of recurrence. Reduced estrogen levels in post-menopausal women have a negative effect on future fibroid growth.

HOW CAN FEMALE ALTERNATIVE SURGERY HELP?

Traditional gynecological treatment follows two courses. The first, for small or asymptomatic tumors, is a “wait and see” approach including annual ultrasounds to watch for any changes. The second traditional avenue, usually for larger and more symptomatic disease, is a myomectomy for the superficial tumors and a hysterectomy for the

more invasive fibroids. Depending on the philosophy of your gynecologist, the ovaries may or may not be removed.

At the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine our approach is much more patient-friendly. Female Alternative Surgery removes fibroid tumors safely and effectively using a multi-laser technique, generally eliminating the need for blood transfusions. Additionally, the endometrial cavity is examined for any and all potential tumors or polyps, something that is not addressed in a traditional myomectomy procedures.

Remember: *Every form of treatment should be tried before a hysterectomy is ever considered.*

CONTACT US

For over a decade the Institute and Dr. del Junco Jr. have advocated treating “fibroid tumors” without hysterectomy. At no cost to you, we have a Surgical RN on staff available to answer any questions you might have pertaining to your diagnosis and our Female Alternative Surgery procedure. Please contact Patricia Marshall BSN RN CNOR directly by [E-Mail](#) or at: **1-800-505-4326**.

Get your life back with our surgery!

Don't delay.... make that call today!

ABOUT DR. TIRSO DEL JUNCO JR.



Feel free to contact Founder and Medical Director Dr. Tirso del Junco Jr. at **1.800.505.IFAM** or [click here to contact us](#).

Tirso del Junco Jr. MD started his General Vascular surgery practice in 1989 in Los Angeles, California. In the mid 1990's, he was appointed to the Department of Health Services on a Medical Oversight Committee for the State of California. In the late 1990's, Dr. del Junco Jr. was awarded the Vice Chairman seat on the California State Athletic Commission by Governor Pete Wilson.

He is currently on staff at ten well established hospitals throughout the Los Angeles area, and has served multiple Directorships, including Chief of Surgery for many.

Dr. del Junco Jr. opened the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine in 1996 and has become one of the few international surgeons offering women an effective alternative to hysterectomy.

MEDIA

Dr. del Junco Jr. has appeared on various TV programs, radio shows and has been featured in numerous magazine articles discussing Female Alternative Surgery. Read more in our [Media Section](#).

EDUCATION

College 1974-1976

- Pasadena City College
Pasadena, California

Medical School 1976-1982

- Universidad Atonoma De Guadalajara
Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico
1976-1980
- Post Graduate Rotating Externship
Queen of Angeles Medical Center
Los Angeles, California
1980-1981

Social Service

- Tecate, Baja California Mexico 1981-1982

Awarded Medical Degree in 1982

EXAMINATIONS

- 7/79
ECFMG – Passed English Portion
- 6/81
Passed Mexico National Boards

- 12/82
Passed FLEX Examination

CLINICAL TRAINING

- 12/76-1/77 General Surgery, Santa Marta Hospital
Los Angeles, California
- 6/7-8/77 General Surgery, Santa Marta Hospital
Los Angeles, California
- 12/77-1/78 General Surgery, Santa Marta Hospital
Los Angeles, California
- 7/79-6/80 Rotating Externship, Santa Marta Hospital
Los Angeles, California (4th year of Medical School is done in a U.S. hospital)
- 7/80-6/81 Rotating Externship, Queen of Angels Medical Center
Los Angeles, California
- 7/81-8/82 Rotating Externship Centro de Salud Tecate
Baja, California, Mexico
- 8/82-5/83 Assistant Director, Foreign Medical Program, Queen of Angels Medical Center
Los Angeles, California
- 8/83-6/84 Surgical Internship, Martin Luther King Hospital
Los Angeles, California
- 6/84-6/89 Surgical Residency, Martin Luther King Hospital Los Angeles, California
- 7/80-6/81 Chief Extern, Queen of Angels Medical Center [Karl Schmutzer, M.D. Director, Medical Education]
- 9/81-6/82 Extern Coordinator, Queen of Angels Medical Center [Moneim A. Fadali, M.D.]
- 7/88-6/89 Executive Chief Resident,
Martin Luther King Hospital
Los Angeles, California

POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

- 9/97 – 11/99
Commissioner to California State Athletic Commission
Governor Pete Wilson
- 3/97 – 5/97
Member of Oversight Committee
Department of Health Service

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

- 10/81 – 6/83
Member of Admissions Committee
Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara
- 6/91 – 1/95
Vice Chairman, Department of Surgery
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/92 – 1/94
Chairman of Quality Assurance Committee,
Universal Medi-Co/California
Primary Physicians/ Health Care Partners
- 1/94 – 4/95
Chairman of ADHOC on Laparoscopic Procedures
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/94 – 4/95
Chairman of Bylaws Committee
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/96 – 1/97
President, Comprehensive Health Care Management, Inc.
- 2/96 – 12/99
President/Medical Director, Mid Valley IPA
- 11/98 – 2/00
Vice Chairman Department Surgery
Santa Marta Hospital

- 1/00 – 6/02
Chairman, Utilization Review and Quality Assurance Committee
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/01 – 1/04
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/04 to 1/05
Chief of Staff
Santa Marta Hospital
- 1/07 to 1/08
Chief of Surgery
Temple Community Hospital
- 1/09 to 12/10
Medical Director-Wound Care Center
Valley Presbyterian Hospital
- 1/10 to Present
Medical Director – Wound Care Clinic
Mission Community Hospital

MEDICAL PRACTICE

- June 1989: Established General / Vascular Surgery Practice
- September 1996: Founded the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine

ABOUT THE HOSPITAL



Temple Community Hospital, a fully accredited medical institution, has been caring for patients from around the world for more than half a century. Temple Community Hospital has been a partner in our [alternative to hysterectomy](#) for the past fifteen years.

Growing and changing with the times to meet the challenges of the next millennium, the Hospital is proud to work with Dr. Tirso del Junco Jr, a doctor who provides women with an alternative to hysterectomy for fibroids, endometriosis, adenomyosis and ovarian cysts.

Temple is a 170-bed acute care facility, centrally located in Los Angeles. It is a fully accredited hospital by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO), and continues annually to meet all compliance and patient safety requirements.

The medical staff and patients at the hospital reflect the ethnic diversity of the surrounding community making Temple an institution that truly understands the needs of the community it serves. This staff will be able to answer any questions you may have, and of course, Dr. del Junco Jr. will be available to answer any questions related to FAS, the alternative to hysterectomy, fibroids, endometriosis, adenomyosis, ovarian cysts, or concerns about complications.

ADMISSION INFORMATION:

The Admitting Department has developed procedures to make your admission to Temple Community Hospital as quick and convenient as possible. Your admission will be arranged by the Institute's staff prior to your arrival.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR ADMISSION:

1. All medical insurance information
2. Required identification
3. Necessary documents as advised by the doctor.

4. Pajamas or nightgown
5. Robe
6. Slippers
7. Personal toiletries
8. Panty Girdle

We suggest that you do not bring jewelry or other valuable possessions as we cannot assume responsibility for them. However, if necessary, we have a vault on premises for limited storage.

Any medications you bring with you should be turned over immediately to your nurse. While you are an inpatient, medication not prescribed by your attending physician may not be taken, and will be returned to you at the time of your discharge. Please let your physician know of the medications you are taking to avoid incurring an adverse reaction to those that are prescribed or administered during your stay.

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SURGERY

Before the Operation

Prior to surgery, all patients are required to sign an authorization for the surgery. Unmarried patients under the age of 18 will require a parent or guardian's signature.

Except for pre-operative medications, all food, drink and other medications will be withheld after midnight on the day of your surgery.

If you are scheduled to be admitted to the hospital on the day of your surgery, you must arrive at least two hours prior to the surgery time.

DURING THE OPERATION

Surgery at Temple Community Hospital is performed in one of our six modern, fully equipped Operating Rooms. During the course of your operation, Dr. del Junco Jr. will be assisted by an assistant surgeon, anesthesiologist, registered nurse and additional necessary support staff.

AFTER THE OPERATION

Immediately following surgery, you will be taken to the Recovery Room, where you will receive continuous nursing care until you return to your hospital room.

NURSING STAFF

The hospital has five Nursing Stations, staffed by Registered Nurses (RN's), Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN's), Nursing Assistants, and a Nursing Supervisor on duty 24 hours per day. If you have concerns or questions, each nursing unit has a Charge Nurse on duty at all times to address those issues.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES

LABORATORY SERVICES

Our on-site laboratory is in operation 24 hours daily, performing a wide range of routine and emergency testing. We utilize state-of-the-art equipment.

RADIOLOGY

Our Radiology Department is a fully-staffed diagnostic facility. We can provide for an array of services, from basic X-rays and mammograms to state-of-the-art CAT (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

YOUR STAY

FAS patients remain at Temple Community Hospital 3-4 nights and are given comfortable and spacious private accommodations that welcome a guest should a family member wish to spend the night. Dr. del Junco Jr. recommends that, if possible, someone come and stay with you. Moral support helps tremendously in the recovery process.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Thank you for considering the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine for your surgical needs. We have several payment options available to assist you in financially planning for your procedure.

We accept Cash, Certified Checks and Money Orders for payment of deposits or balances in the office. We are also proud to announce a new affiliation with **CareCredit**.

CareCredit is a medical financing company that offers patients low interest loans for medical and dental procedures. These loans can pay for deductibles, co-payments, surgical deposits or balances due. Interest rates currently around 14% are offered, and there is no prepayment penalty on your account. If you need money to have your surgery, just log onto www.Carecredit.com or call 1-800-365-8295. The application process is easy and the approval takes only minutes. This program takes the financial worry out of the picture and for only a small monthly payment, your surgery can become an immediate reality. Please call our office if you have any questions.

INSURANCE AND PRICING

Provided in this section is information to assist you with your preparation and financial planning for Female Alternative Surgery at the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine.

Information needed prior to your visit

Please provide the following before you visit the Institute:

1. A copy of the pelvic ultrasound, or CT or MRI report within the past year positively identifying a disease such as fibroid tumors (or fibroids), endometriosis, adenomyosis, or ovarian cysts that requires a surgical alternative to hysterectomy.
2. A pap smear result within the past year.
3. Insurance information to verify benefits and begin a pre-certification process. We will need a copy of both the front and back of your insurance card, your date of birth and phone number where we can call you back.

DOES INSURANCE COVER FEMALE ALTERNATIVE SURGERY?

Prior to your visit, please send the Institute's Program Coordinator your insurance information so that your coverage and benefits for the surgery can be verified. Insurance information will be given to our affiliate, Temple Community Hospital, so that inpatient hospital benefits can be verified and out of pocket costs estimated. Temple, as a courtesy to the Institute's patients, gives a significant percentile discount on services. Therefore, most patients only have outstanding deductibles that are owed and collected at the time of admission.

Coverage must consist of a private insurance policy, either a PPO, POS or Indemnity plan. FAS, the surgical alternative to hysterectomy, is not covered by Medicare, Medical or HMO/EPO plans of any type.

There is often a significant variance in insurance benefits and coverage depending on state of residence, policy and group plan. All patients are required to put down a surgical deposit the week of arrival to the program. The amount of the deposit depends on your verified insurance benefits. This deposit must be paid by cash, money order, bank certified check or CareCredit. We cannot accept personal checks or credit cards for this surgery deposit.

The Institute cannot guarantee the exact amount of insurance reimbursement prior to the surgical procedure. This is dependent on coverage levels and medical reviews within the insurance company. Reimbursement can be widely variable within one insurance carrier. We will do our best to financially prepare you based on previous experience with insurance payors.

The Institute will bill all private insurance companies directly for surgical services.

HOW MUCH IS THE INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH DR. DEL JUNCO JR?

The initial consultation with Dr. del Junco Jr. is \$300 and includes the following:

- Taking a complete personal history
- Thorough explanation of Female Alternative Surgery
- Review of educational videos

This service is paid for at the time of the consultation either by cash, personal check or credit card. Insurance paperwork is provided to you for filing with your insurance provider.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE INSURANCE?

For those patients without insurance coverage, or who have HMO plans or restrictive managed care policies, the Female Alternative Surgical procedure is available at a significantly reduced flat fee. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

THE FEE INCLUDES:

- Surgeon's fees
- Assistant Surgeon's fees
- Medical Internist clearance with four-hospital day visits
- Anesthesiology fees
- Radiology fees
- All Laboratory tests including a complete Hormone Panel
- Pathology processing
- Medical review of all surgical specimens
- Laser Company fees for two Lasers and technical support staff
- Operating room time
- Operating room equipment costs
- A copy of ALL medical records (operative report, lab reports, etc.)
- 4 day hospital stay in a private room with your companion








- Meals for you and your companion

Remaining expenses not included in the fee are: transportation to and from Los Angeles and the cost of a one-week hotel stay to have the mandatory follow-up visit with the doctor.

IS FINANCING AVAILABLE?

We are proud to announce a new affiliation with **CareCredit**. **CareCredit** is a medical financing company that offers patients low interest loans for medical and dental procedures. These loans can pay for deductibles, co-payments, surgical deposits or balances due. Interest rates currently around 14% are offered, and there is no prepayment penalty on your account. If you need money to have your surgery, just log onto www.Carecredit.com or call **1-800-365-8295**. The application process is easy and the approval takes only minutes. This program takes the financial worry out of the picture and for only a small monthly payment your surgery can become an immediate reality. Please call our office if you have any questions or log onto www.CareCredit.com.

SURGERY AND CALENDAR INFORMATION

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Fly to Los Angeles 	Consultation with Dr. Tirso del Junco Jr. Van Nuys Office 	11am - 1pm Clearance at Temple Community Hospital Afternoon: Free	Find your way around Los Angeles
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Enjoy some sightseeing. 7pm: Check into Temple Community Hospital	7:30 AM: Female Alternative Surgery 	In Hospital 	In Hospital 	Discharge in afternoon- Yeah!!	Enjoy the sites and sounds of Los Angeles 	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				9am: Post operative visit with Dr. Tirso del Junco Jr. Van Nuys office Fly home after noon anytime Thurs evening: Welcome Home!		

LOS ANGELES HOTELS

The following is a list of Hotels our patients have stayed in while in Los Angeles recovering from FAS. These hotels range in price and location therefore we recommend you review their websites and/or call them for any reservation information.

Glendale 100 W. Glenoaks Blvd.
Glendale CA

Hilton 818 956 5466
www.Hilton.com

Casa Malibu 22752 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA
310 456 2219
www.casamalibu@earthlink.net

Ocean Lodge Hotel 1667 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA
800 393 6310
www.oceanlodgehotel.com

Best Western 123 W. Colorado Blvd.
Glendale, CA
818 247 0111
www.bestwestern.com/goldenkeyglendale

Best Western 5525 Sepulveda Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA
818 787 2301

Marriott Courtyard 15433 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA
818 981 5400
www.marriott.com

Ramada Inn 1160 No. Vermont
Hollywood, CA
323 660 1788
(2007 Renovation property of the year)

Kioto 120 South Los Angeles Street

Gardens Los Angeles, CA
213 629 1200

**Miayaki
Hotel** 328 East 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA
213 617 0004

Condos www.VRBO.com
Vacation Rentals by Owner

TOUR OF THE CLINIC



The Institute for Female Alternative Medicine moved to its current location at 6815 Noble Avenue, Van Nuys, CA in March of 2007. When you arrive, come to Suite 410



Welcome to the lobby of the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine. You will be greeted by one of the Doctor's staff members who will be expecting you.



As part of your first office visit, you'll gain a greater understanding of Female Alternative Surgery by watching a video of an actual surgical procedure performed by Dr. del Junco Jr.

Dr. del Junco Jr. videotapes all of his surgeries so they can be viewed confidentially by the patient afterwards.



This visit to the doctor will not be like it is with other doctors. Dr. del Junco Jr. will talk to you about options you have to treat your condition in the place of hysterectomy and about how Female Alternative Surgery can work for you.



You have probably been in many of these rooms trying to find a solution to the medical problems you have been experiencing. Although it looks like the other rooms there is one difference. The doctor here will never try to treat a benign

condition with a hysterectomy. Relax.

Now, let's go visit Dr. del Junco in his office.



Doctor del Junco Jr. will probably be the first doctor you visit who will not use the word '*Hysterectomy*'. He'll help to educate you about your body and how Female Alternative Surgery can work for you.

Thank you for joining us on our virtual tour of the Institute for Female Alternative Medicine. If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact us](#).