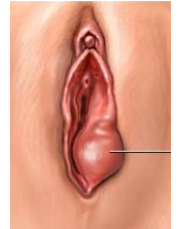


# Bartholin Gland, Abscess of

## What is it?

- **Bartholin Gland, Abscess**—a build-up of puss that form a lump (swelling) in one of the Bartholin glands
- **Bartholin Gland**- located on each side of the vaginal opening and drain through ducts that empty into the vestibule at approximately the 4 and 8 o'clock positions; pea-sized glands are palpable only if the duct becomes cystic or a gland abscess develops
- **Cysts**- diameter of 1 cm or larger; the size of a penny or an orange, although most do not get bigger than a golf ball
- **Goal** to preserve the gland and its function if possible



## Symptoms:

- **Symptoms**- usually asymptomatic, may become enlarged or infected and cause pain, pain with sitting and walking, a sudden relief of pain followed by discharge which may be a spontaneous rupture, in some cases cellulitis may be present; if the cyst is large it may be tender, fever may occur, very hard and swollen, pain with sexual intercourse, cysts can be tender

## Facts:

- **Develop**- in 2% of women of reproductive age will experience swelling of one or both of the Bartholin glands; present only in females
  - **Occurs**- typically in women between the ages of 20 and 30 years
  - **Causes**-forms when a duct gets blocked, fluid in the gland builds up and may become infected, can take years before an abscess occurs
- **What to Look or Feel for**- a small round, painless lump in one of the vaginal lips

## What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information; may want to lance the cyst or abscess, may recur; outpatient procedure
- **Treatment**- soak in warm baths 4 to 5 times per day

