

Foreign Body-Vagina

What is it?

- **Foreign Body-Vagina**– may produce symptoms or be asymptomatic for long periods of time, may be placed there due to abuse or intentional as part of a sexual; Examples- bottles, light bulbs, fruits, vegetables, balls, vibrators, broom handles, candles, cocaine, jewelry, gerbils, screw, pencil, wooden shoe tree, a flashlight, a crayon, condom, a bottle cap, a drinking glass, a tin container, an aerosol deodorant, a hairspray cap, bottles, etc...
- **Designed for a Woman's Vagina**- tampons, vaginal suppositories, diaphragm, condom, medications delivered through the vagina
 - **Adult**- may be the result of a psychiatric disorder or unusual sexual practices or abuse
 - **Children**- often insert a foreign body and do not tell their parents and then are brought to the emergency room with a foul-smelling purulent discharge with or without vaginal bleeding; may be a result of ignorance, malice, accident, attempts at sexual stimulation or psychotic tendencies



Signs and Symptoms:

- **Symptoms**- bleeding, or foul-smelling vaginal discharge; pain or urinary discomfort; pain due to sharp objects or due to vaginal distention, vaginal itching, pain during urination, decreased urination, increased urinary frequency

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information
 - **Difficult Cases**- when a large or sharp objects are involved, may require general anesthesia to allow removal
 - **Procedure**- empty her bladder, and lie in stirrups in the lithotomy position, inset a Foley catheter to break any suction between the vaginal mucosa and the foreign object; most objects can be grasped with plaster and tongue blade method ring forceps
 - **X-Rays**- for radio-opaque foreign bodies concealed in the urethra or bladder
 - **Pediatric Patient**- perform a recto abdominal or bimanual examination to palpate a hard object and then do a gentle speculum exam to look for signs of vaginal trauma and a foreign body

