

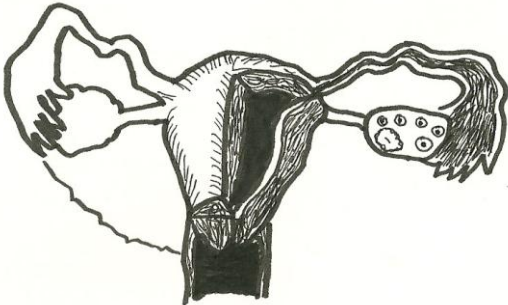
THE VESTIBULAR BULBS

The vestibular bulbs are structures located on both sides of the vagina. If you dissect away the labia and keep going down deeper you can uncover the vestibular bulbs. The vestibular bulbs, like the clitoris, are structures that enlarge during sexual arousal.



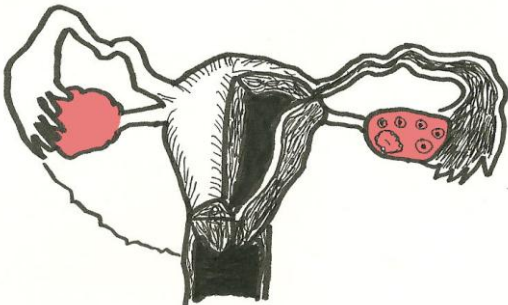
BARTHOLIN'S GLANDS

Bartholin's glands are also deep structures – they are not visible from the surface. Glands generally have little tunnels (called ducts) that carry the secretion of the gland out to a surface. The ducts of Bartholin's glands open inside the vagina. If the duct gets clogged and the glandular secretions build up behind the blockage the gland can enlarge and become visible as a round bulge within the labia.



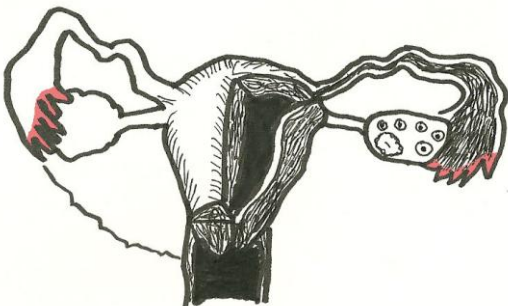
ORIENTING TO THE DEEPEST FEMALE STRUCTURES:

In the central region of the female pelvis are the ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, and vagina. These are very deep structures. In order to get to them, the surgeon must pass through skin, fat, three layers of muscle, and the membranes lining the inside of the pelvic cavity.



THE OVARIES

The ovaries are the place where egg cells are formed and become mature. Approximately once each month during a woman's fertile years, one egg cell will be released from either the right or the left ovary.



THE FIMBRIAE

The fimbriae are finger-like extensions on the ends of the fallopian tubes. They encircle the ovary and help the released egg cell start its journey down the rest of the fallopian tube towards the eventual destination of the uterus.