

**For women with symptomatic endometriosis do Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine devices help when used post-surgery?**

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<b>Clinical Question</b>	Are post-operative Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine devices (LNG-IUD) in women with symptomatic endometriosis effective and safe?
<b>Bottom Line</b>	There is very little evidence determining the effectiveness of LNG-IUD so authors of this review were unable to draw any substantial conclusions. No trials reported on overall pain or chronic pelvic pain at twelve months. Two small trials did show that post-operative LNG-IUD improved dysmenorrhoea at 12 months and one trial showed that participants were satisfied with the treatment.
<b>Caveat</b>	There was a significant increase in women reporting bloating and melasma in those who received post-operative LNG-IUD compared to those receiving no post-operative treatment but again this was based on one very small study. All the available data came from four small trials that only included 153 women in total. All four were at high risk of bias due to lack of blinding.
<b>Context</b>	Endometriosis is a condition characterised by the presence of ectopic deposits of endometrial-like tissue outside the uterus, usually in the pelvis. The impact of laparoscopic treatment on overall pain is uncertain and a significant proportion of women will require further surgery. Therefore, adjuvant medical therapies following surgery, such as the levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device (LNG-IUD), have been considered to reduce recurrence of symptoms.
<b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>	Gibbons T, Georgiou EX, Cheong YC, Wise MR. Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device (LNG-IUD) for symptomatic endometriosis following surgery. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD005072. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005072.pub4. This review contains 4 trials with a total of 157 participants.

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**Pearls No. 700, April 2022, written by Assoc Professor Vanessa MB Jordan.**

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Systematic review link:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005072.pub4/full>