Broad Ligament of the Uterus

POSTERIOR ASPECT OF BROAD LIGAMENT

Ovarian vessels, lymphatics and sympathetic nerves in suspensory ligament of ovary

Fallopian tube

Fimbria

Ligament of ovary

Ureter

Round ligament of the uterus

Vagina

Sensory: General visceral afferents via pelvic plexus. In parasympathetics from cervix; in sympathetics for rest of uterus and tube

COMPARISONS OF PELVIC PERITONEUM IN THE MALE AND FEMALE PELVIS

Peritoneum

1 pouch

Bladder

Rectum

MALE: In males the peritoneum passes from the posterior surface of the bladder to the lower third of the rectum, giving a single pouch - rectovesical

Peritoneum

2 pouches

Uterus

Bladder

Rectum

FEMALE: In females the uterus “sticks up” into the pelvis between the bladder & rectum giving two pouches. The vesicouterine pouch anteriorly & the rectouterine pouch posteriorly
THE NEED FOR A BROAD LIGAMENT

**Question:** Why don’t the uterus, ovaries and tubes simply stand up in middle of the female pelvis with a covering of peritoneum?

**Answer:** Because there would then be no access point for the ovarian vessels, lymphatics and nerves from the lateral wall as they descend from higher in the abdominal cavity. If they did not exist there would be no need for a broad ligament at all.

Ovarian vessels, lymphatics and sympathetic nerves in suspensory ligament of ovary

POSTERIOR ASPECT OF BROAD LIGAMENT

Fimbria

Ovary

Ligament of ovary

Ureter

Fallopian tube

Broad ligament

Round ligament of the uterus

Sensory: General visceral afferents via pelvic plexus. In parasympathetics from cervix; in sympathetics for rest of uterus and tube
ANTERIOR VIEW OF LEFT SIDE OF BROAD LIGAMENT

Suspensory ligament of the ovary: a double fold of peritoneum at the lateral end of the broad ligament where the ovarian neurovascular bundle leaves the posterolateral abdominal wall to enter the broad ligament.

Ovarian vessels, lymphatics & sympathetics

Round ligament of uterus passing through deep inguinal ring and then to labia majora.