

Endometriosis: Diagnosing the debilitating condition

Video	Audio
Wendaline VanBuren, M.D. Radiology Mayo Clinic	<p>"It's part of the disease complexity. And I think one of the most controversial issues that exists with endometriosis is the diagnosis of it. And that has to do with the cell types that are involved."</p>
	<p>Dr. Wendaline VanBuren specializes in gynecologic imaging. She says different patterns of endometriosis mean there's more than one way to diagnose the disease.</p>
	<p>"On the lining of the pelvis, there's a surface called the peritoneum, which I think of almost like, think of Saran wrap, a thin layer that kind of covers all those pelvic structures, the ovaries, the uterus, the bowel, and then almost like a powdered sugar coating on that. That's called superficial disease — so extremely tiny deposits."</p>
	<p>Although it can sometimes be seen on imaging, superficial disease requires laparoscopic surgery for definitive diagnosis.</p>
	<p>If the endometriosis is growing into organs in the pelvis or abdomen, that's called deep disease, and surgery may not be needed for diagnosis.</p>
	<p>"Imaging is really good at identifying that type of disease, so either a dedicated MRI for endometriosis or an ultrasound."</p>
	<p>Processes in the body, such as hormones and inflammation, can affect the appearance of endometriosis differently based on location and cell type.</p>
	<p>"And the patient presentation may not necessarily reflect, in terms of the</p>

	symptoms, where those cells are, what they're doing or the disease severity."
	Dr. VanBuren says high-quality, dedicated imaging for endometriosis is an excellent tool for diagnostic evaluation.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.