

## Got Fibroids?

Especially if you are a Black woman in your 30s or 40s, the answer to this question is probably “yes.” Uterine fibroids are the most common pelvic tumor in women, and are about three times more common in Black women than in White women. Fibroids tend to run in families, too—so if a relative has been affected, your risk of having them increases.



Fibroids cause symptoms (including profuse menstrual bleeding, anemia, pelvic pain, infertility and miscarriage) in about a quarter of all women of reproductive age. But because fibroids can be present without causing symptoms, about 70% of us may have them. Fibroids are the most common reason for hysterectomies in the U.S.

Despite their major public health impact, the cause of fibroids is unknown. The Center for Uterine Fibroids at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts is investigating the cause of fibroids in a research study, Finding Genes for Uterine Fibroids. The study is now enrolling families in which two sisters have (or have had) uterine fibroids. Results of this study will hopefully lead to non-surgical treatment options for future generations of women.

For more information on this study, call the Center at 1-800-722-5520 and ask the operator for 525-4434, visit [www.fibroids.net](http://www.fibroids.net), or e-mail [Fibroids@rics.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:Fibroids@rics.bwh.harvard.edu).