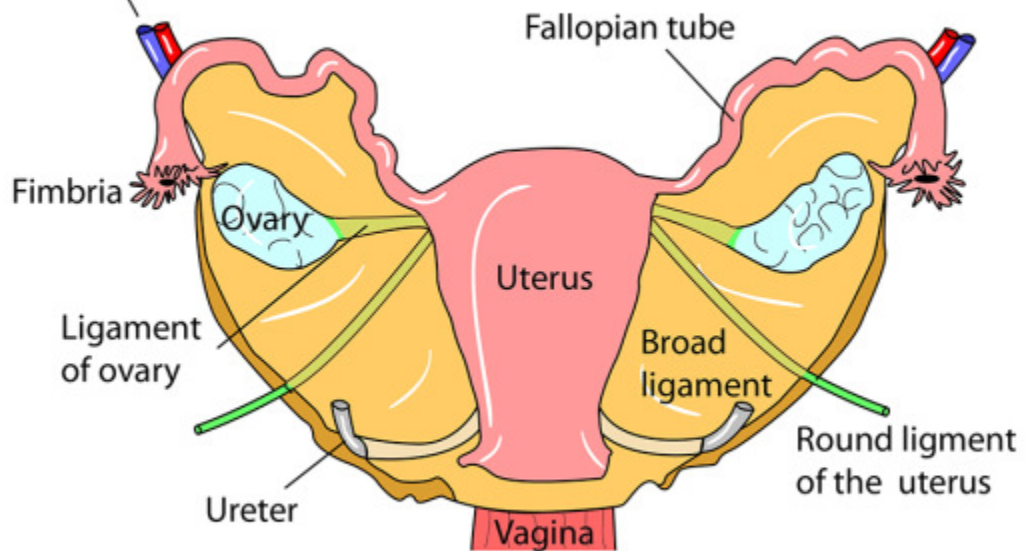


## Broad Ligament of the Uterus

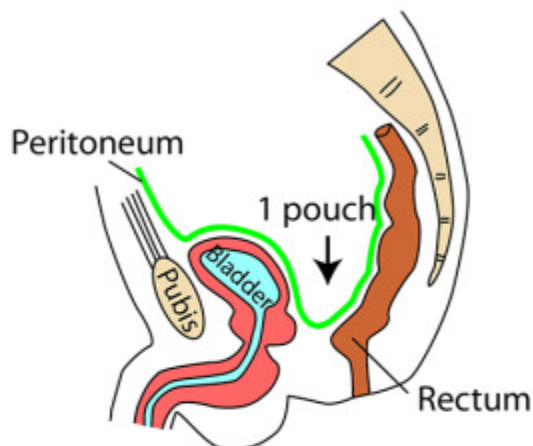
Ovarian vessels, lymphatics and sympathetic nerves in suspensory ligament of ovary

### POSTERIOR ASPECT OF BROAD LIGAMENT

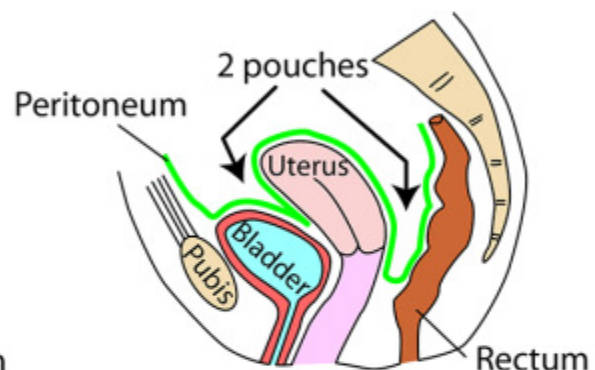


**Sensory:** General visceral afferents via pelvic plexus. In parasympathetics from cervix; in sympathetics for rest of uterus and tube

### COMPARISONS OF PELVIC PERITONEUM IN THE MALE AND FEMALE PELVIS

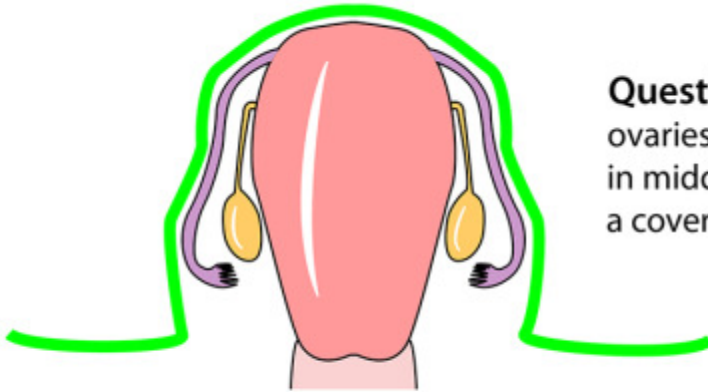


**MALE:** In males the peritoneum passes from the posterior surface of the bladder to the lower third of the rectum, giving a single pouch - rectovesical



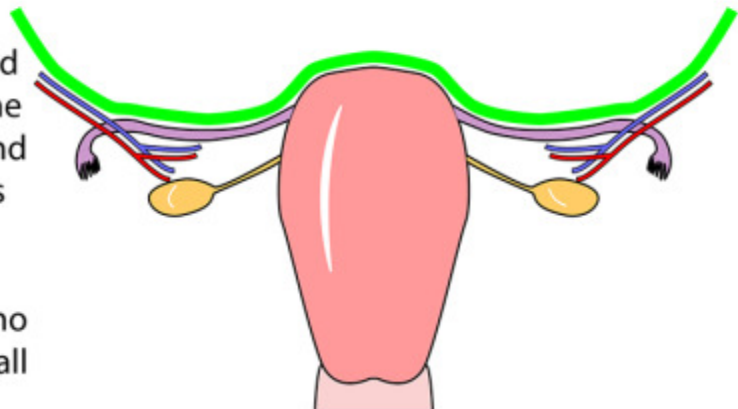
**FEMALE:** In females the uterus "sticks up" into the pelvis between the bladder & rectum giving two pouches. The vesicouterine pouch anteriorly & the rectouterine pouch posteriorly

## THE NEED FOR A BROAD LIGAMENT



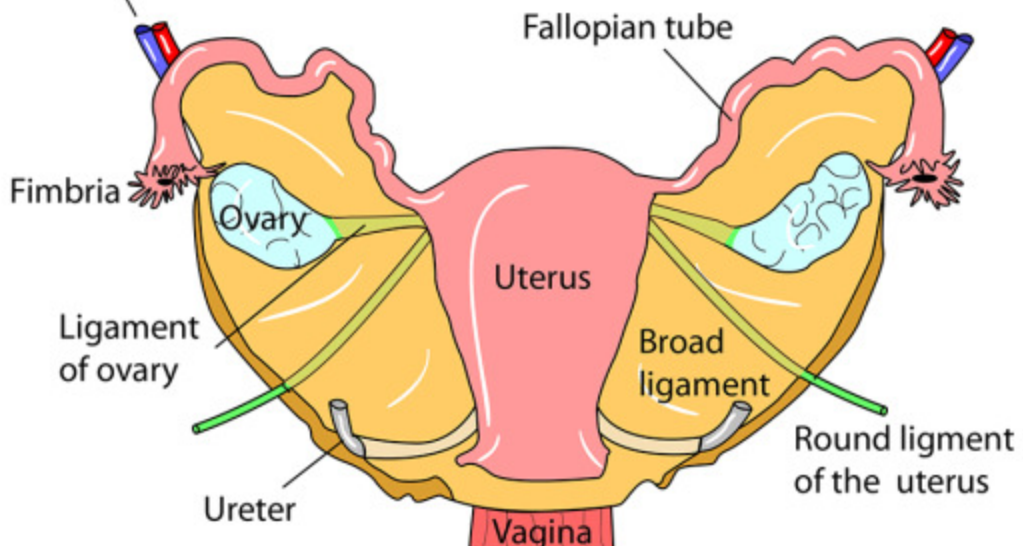
**Question:** Why don't the uterus, ovaries and tubes simply stand up in middle of the female pelvis with a covering of peritoneum?

**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



**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

