



**Health Professionals  
Committed to the  
Reproductive Needs of  
Children and Adolescents**

## OHVIRA (Obstructed Hemivagina, Ipsilateral Renal Anomaly)

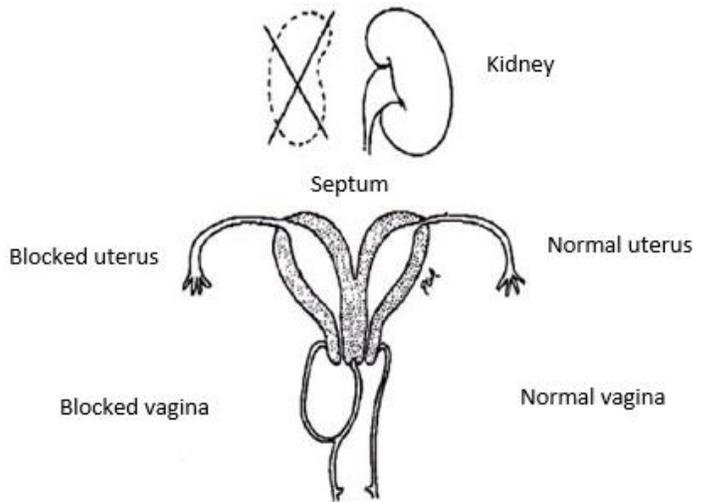
### What is OHVIRA?

OHVIRA stands for “**O**bstructed **H**emivagina and **I**psilateral **R**enal **A**nomaly”. It is an abnormality of the “Mullerian ducts” which are the part of the female human fetus which become the female genital system.

Females with OHVIRA have two uteruses (didelphic uterus), but one of the uteruses is blocked by a bridge of vaginal tissue called a “septum”. The menstrual blood is trapped in the upper vagina behind the septum which can cause pain. However, menstrual blood from the other uterus is able to flow, so most girls do experience menstrual bleeding.

While most people have two kidneys, girls with OHVIRA have one. They may be missing a kidney or have kidney abnormality on the same side of their body as the blocked uterus.

*Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, 6th ed, Emans SJ, Laufer MR (Eds), Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia 2012. Copyright © 2012 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. [www.lww.com](http://www.lww.com).*



### What are symptoms of OHVIRA?

- Severe pain with your period
- Frequent or constant pain in your abdomen and pelvis since your first period
- A pelvic mass
- Vaginal pain

### How do people get OHVIRA?

OHVIRA is a congenital abnormality – that means you are born with this condition. When you were a fetus, developing inside your mother’s womb, the Mullerian ducts did not come together to create one uterus. Instead, two uteruses formed and one became blocked.

### How is OHVIRA diagnosed?

- Tell your doctor about your symptoms
- Your doctor will perform a physical exam
- An ultrasound is routinely ordered to give a general idea of what the organs look like on the inside
- MRI can often give a more specific view of the kidneys and female organs and may provide helpful information

### Is OHVIRA treatable?

Yes! You will be referred to a gynecologist who will need to do surgery to unblock the septum and allow your menstrual blood to flow freely. Most girls feel better very quickly after surgery although you may need to take some pain medicine for a few days.

Some girls with OHVIRA also take medication to control their menstrual periods. Your doctor may discuss if using birth control pills, progesterone injections (Depo-Provera) or implant are appropriate for you.

### Can OHVIRA affect my future?

Talk to your doctor about how OHVIRA may affect your period and future fertility. Many women with Mullerian abnormalities such as OHVIRA can have healthy pregnancies if they choose to have children.