

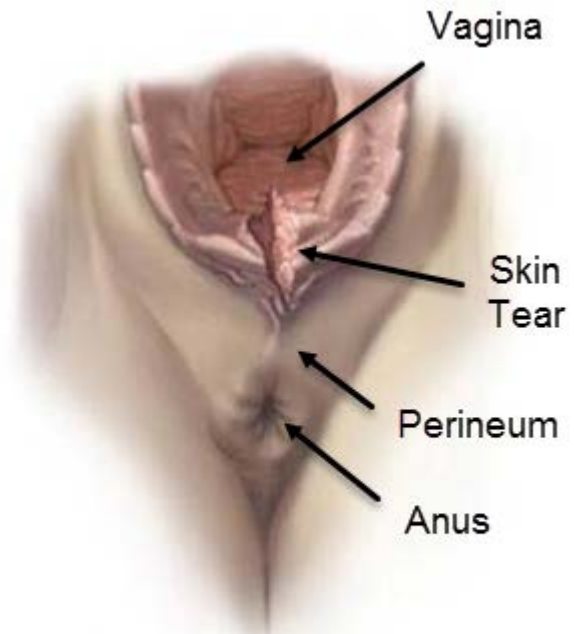


First Degree Laceration

What is a first degree laceration?

Lacerations or tears are common in women having their first baby. The muscles need to stretch to allow the baby to pass through. The stretching can cause a tear. The tears can range from small nicks and cuts to deep tears affecting several muscles.

A **first degree laceration** is the most common tear after having a baby. It involves the outermost layer of the vagina itself but no muscles. These tears are often so small that few or no stitches are required. They usually heal quickly and cause little or no discomfort or pain. Most women are unaware of their presence.



© Corton. Randomized trial of stirrups delivery. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2012.

Illustration: *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2012 Aug; 207(2): 133.e1–133.e5. Published online 2012 Jun 23. doi: [10.1016/j.ajog.2012.06.043](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2012.06.043)

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