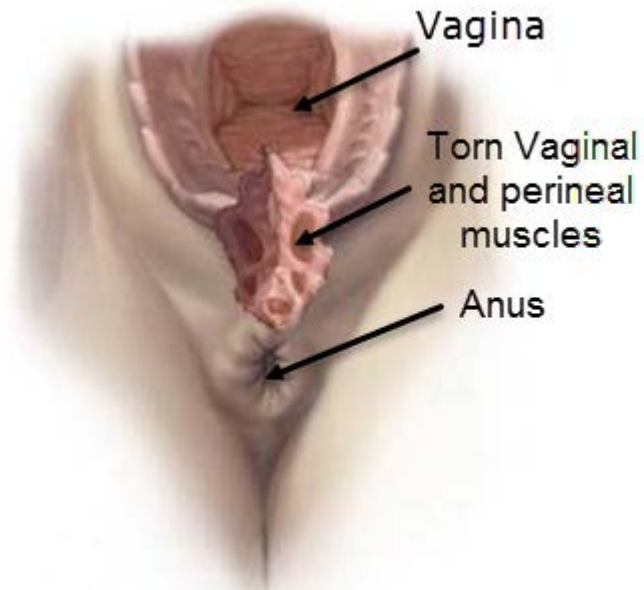


What is a second degree laceration?

A second degree laceration is a common tear that can happen while having a baby. These tears go through the skin into the muscles underneath the vagina.

Second degree lacerations sometimes need sutures. The sutures will help to hold the edges of the tear together to allow it to heal. The sutures will dissolve on their own in a few weeks. You will not need to return to the physician's office to have the sutures removed.



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

What can I do about Pain or Discomfort?

Sutures can sometimes cause discomfort. Sitting in a bath tub of warm water or using a sitz bath may help to relieve discomfort. Over the counter Tylenol® or Motrin® may also help.

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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