CASE STUDY #3: UTERINE FIBROIDS

SITUATION:

A 45-year-old woman presents to the physician’s office for annual gynecologic health screening. The physician, a male, is especially careful to protect the client=s modesty. As a matter of fact, you, the female nurse, notice that he appears not to even look at the external genitalia as he performs the pelvic examination. The client is quiet and does not ask questions.

1. What are the nursing responsibilities in relation to the examination?

2. What is the nurse=s responsibility in relation to the physician?

3. What patient education opportunities are noted in this situation?

She is diagnosed with leiomyomas (uterine fibroids) and has been advised to have a hysterectomy. She is very resistant to the idea and asks for a second opinion. She is married and has two children, ages 5 and 11 years, and works as a receptionist.

1. How would you advise this client?

2. What would you do if you believed the hysterectomy is necessary?

3. The laboratory values include hemoglobin of 8.5 and hematocrit of 30. Is this significant to the discussion?