



# Study of “Broad Ligament” of Uterus in Human Anatomy and Its Importance - A Literature Review.”

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## Abstract: Broad Ligament

The broad ligament is a two-layered fold of peritoneum that extends from the sides of the uterus to the floor and lateral walls of the pelvis inferiorly and the adnexa superiorly. The broad ligament helps to hold the uterus in its anatomic position, although its contribution is not considered to be central.

The layer of tissue that connects the sides of the uterus to the walls and floor of the pelvis. The broad ligament covers the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes. The broad ligaments (TA: ligamentum latum uteri or plica lata uteri ) are the paired lateral folds of the parietal peritoneum which reflect over the upper genital tract in females.

The broad ligament (BL) is a double fold of peritoneum that extends from the lateral edges of the uterus to the pelvic wall: thus, it is not really a ligament at all, which by definition attaches bone to bone (McMinn, 1994). It is found in female humans and, in an altered form, in other female mammals.

The broad ligament is divided into the mesometrium (the largest portion), the mesosalpinx (mesentery of the uterine [fallopian] tubes), and the mesovarium (connects the ovaries to the broad ligament)

So this article focuses on anatomical structure, function and clinical significans of Broad Ligament.

**Key words:** Broad Ligament, Anatomy.

**Introduction:**

**Ligament:Definition:** A ligament is a fibrous connective tissue that attaches bone to bone, and usually serves to hold structures together and keep them stable.<sup>1</sup>

The layer of tissue that connects the sides of the uterus to the walls and floor of the pelvis. The broad ligament covers the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes. It also includes nerves and blood vessels to these organs.<sup>2</sup>

The broad ligament of the uterus is the wide fold of peritoneum that connects the sides of the uterus to the walls and floor of the pelvis.<sup>3</sup>

The broad ligament is a two-layered fold of peritoneum that extends from the sides of the uterus to the floor and lateral walls of the pelvis inferiorly and the adnexa superiorly. The broad ligament helps to hold the uterus in its anatomic position, although its contribution is not considered to be central.<sup>4</sup>

**Objectives:**

To study the anatomy of broad ligament of the uterus and its applied anatomy (Clinical Significans).

**Methods:**

Literature searching and Collection.

**Broad ligament of the uterus****Structure:**<sup>5</sup>

sn	Subcomponent	Mesentery
1	Mesometrium	Uterus - the largest portion of the broad ligament
2	Mesosalpinx	Fallopian tubes
3	Mesovarium	Ovaries

**Content:**<sup>6</sup>

The contents of the broad ligament include the following:

Reproductive: Uterine tubes (or fallopian tube)

Ovary (some sources consider the ovary to be on the broad ligament, but not in it.)

Vessels

Ovarian artery (in the suspensory ligament)

U (in reality, travels in the cardinal ligament)

Ligaments: Ovarian ligament, Round ligament of uterus.

suspensory ligament of the ovary (Some sources consider it a part of the broad ligament, while other sources just consider it a "termination" of the ligament

**Relation:**

The peritoneum surrounds the uterus like a flat sheet that folds over its fundus, covering it anteriorly and posteriorly; on the sides of the uterus, this sheet of peritoneum comes in direct contact with itself, forming the double layer of peritoneum known as the broad ligament of the uterus.

The part where this peritoneal sheet is folded (i.e. the free edge) has the uterine tubes running between the two layers; this part is known as the mesosalpinx.

**Function:** <sup>7</sup>

The broad ligament serves as a mesentery for the uterus, ovaries, and the uterine tubes. It helps in maintaining the uterus in its position, but it is not a major contributing factor.

**Discussion:**

**Clinical significance:** Broad ligament hernias are rare. Due to their vague clinical presentation they are difficult to distinguish from other types of internal hernias, which can cause small bowel obstruction.<sup>8</sup>

**Applied anatomy:**

Broad ligament pain, fibroid, tumors etc are common pathological conditions.

Rupture of the broad ligament with hemorrhage into the abdomen usually leads to rapid collapse and death. The colic associated with distension of the broad ligament may mistakenly be assumed to be that commonly associated with postparturient uterine contractions and expulsion of the placenta.<sup>9</sup>

**Conclusions:**

1. The broad ligament is believed to hold the uterus in its normal position within the pelvis and maintains the relationship of the fallopian tubes to the ovaries and the uterus, a role that might be important in reproduction.
2. The broad ligament of the uterus serves as mesentery to the female pelvic organs and contains blood vessels, nerves, and lymphatics.

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