

# Vaginal Wall Retractor

## Description

A **Vaginal Wall Retractor** is a **surgical gynecologically instrument** designed to retract and hold the **anterior and/or posterior walls of the vaginal canal** during pelvic examinations, surgical procedures, or treatments. It enables clear visualization and access to the **cervix, vaginal vault, or uterus** by creating and maintaining space within the vaginal cavity.

Often used alongside a **Sims speculum** or **weighted speculum**, it is available in various blade shapes and lengths to suit patient anatomy and procedural needs.

## Specification

- **Type:** Manual retractor (single or dual blade)
- **Blade Width:** 25 mm – 40 mm
- **Blade Length:** 75 mm – 120 mm
- **Handle Type:** Solid or fenestrated
- **Designs:** Straight, curved, right-angled
- **Self-Retaining:** Some models are (most are manual)
- **Material:** Surgical stainless steel or disposable polymer

## Sizes & Shapes

Size	Blade Width	Blade Length	Use Case
Small	25–28 mm	75–85 mm	Paediatric / Narrow canal
Medium	30–35 mm	90–100 mm	Standard gynecologically use
Large	36–40 mm	105–120 mm	Surgical / Deep vaginal procedures

### **Blade Shapes:**

- Flat
- Curved
- Right-angle (90°)
- Fenestrated or solid

## Types

- **Lateral Vaginal Retractor** – Holds vaginal side walls
- **Anterior/Posterior Retractor** – Focuses on one wall at a time
- **Self-retaining Retractors (optional)** – With locking or stand
- **Plastic Disposable Retractors** – Transparent, single-use
- **Weighted Retractor (e.g., Avard type)** – Stays in place via gravity

## Material

- **Reusable:**
  - Medical/surgical grade stainless steel (corrosion-resistant)
- **Disposable:**
  - Clear, sterile, medical-grade plastic (polycarbonate or polymer)

## Category

- OB/GYN Surgical Instruments
- Vaginal Retractors
- Diagnostic and Operative Instruments

## Product Form

- Long, flat or curved blade
- Thumb or handle grip for easy retraction
- May be part of a **vaginal surgery set**
- Optional hole for suction drainage in some designs

## Usage

- Retraction of anterior or lateral vaginal wall
- Used in vaginal surgeries, hysteroscopy, or minor procedures
- Helps expose cervix for colposcopy or biopsy
- Frequently combined with Sims speculum or weighted retractor

## Advantages

- Enhances visibility and access during exams/surgery
- Lightweight and ergonomic for ease of handling
- Multiple sizes ensure personalized patient care
- Reusable models are long-lasting and cost-effective
- Disposable options available for infection control

## Disadvantages

- Manual holding may require assistant
- May cause discomfort if improper size is used
- Non-self-retaining versions need additional instruments for stable access
- Risk of mucosal trauma if inserted carelessly

## Precautions

- Choose correct blade size based on patient anatomy
- Lubricate before insertion to reduce discomfort
- Use sterile technique to prevent infection
- Ensure blade edges are smooth and intact
- Do not use excessive force during insertion or retraction

## HS / HSN Code

- **HS Code:** 9018.90 – Medical or surgical instruments
- **HSN Code (India):** 9018.90.99 – Includes retractors

## Handling & Sterilization Details

- **Reusable:**
  - Clean thoroughly using enzymatic detergent
  - Sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 15–20 minutes
  - Dry and store in sterile conditions
- **Disposable:**
  - Pre-sterilized/ Discard immediately after single use in biohazard container

## Human and Veterinary Application

### Veterinary Application

- Used in **canine, feline, and bovine gynaecology** for **reproductive exams, uterine access, and vaginal surgery**
- Essential tool in **artificial insemination prep, prolapse repair, or foreign body removal**
- Large-sized retractors used in **equine and bovine reproductive surgery**
- Improves visibility during **vaginal and cervical swab collection**

### Human Application

- Widely used in **gynecologically surgeries**, including **vaginal hysterectomy, cystocele/rectocele repair, and colposcopy**
- Helps retract vaginal wall during **cervical biopsy or IUD placement**
- Crucial in **vaginal vault suspension surgeries**
- Used in **routine and operative OB/GYN procedures**

### FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

#### **Q1: What is the purpose of a vaginal wall retractor?**

A1: It retracts the vaginal walls to allow clear visualization and access to internal structures during exams or surgeries.

#### **Q2: Is it reusable or single-use?**

A2: Both versions exist — stainless steel ones are reusable; plastic ones are disposable and pre-sterilized.

#### **Q3: Can it be used in veterinary procedures?**

A3: Yes, it's used in animal gynaecology, especially for reproductive exams in dogs, cats, cows, and horses.

#### **Q4: Is a self-retaining version available?**

A4: Some versions (e.g., weighted or stand-mounted) are self-retaining, though most are manually held.

#### **Q5: How should it be sterilized?**

A5: Clean with enzymatic solution and autoclave at 121°C for 15–20 minutes; disposable versions should be discarded after one use.