

# Hammock principle

**Hammock**<sup>[1]</sup> is a concept of the functional anatomy of the structures of the small pelvis important for women's continence. The hammock principle was first formulated by the American pathologist DeLancey<sup>[2]</sup>.

According to the hammock principle, the urethra is supported by structures forming a kind of funnel, on which it can lean. The increased intra-abdominal pressure then presses the urethra against this hamate and stress incontinence does not occur. It is formed by a sheath that is suspended by the endopelvic fascia to a reinforced strip of this fascia, **the arcus tendineus fasciae pelvis** (ATFP). The ATFP runs from the spina sciatic to the lower edge of the symphysis. This hinge is the cause of the characteristic butterfly-shaped cross-section of the vagina (H shape with the middle bar displaced dorsally to the rectum). Its curved course is a consequence of other structures of the supporting and suspension apparatus.



Hammock, after which the hammock principle is named; however, in the small pan it is more spread out than in this picture

## Links

### Related Articles

- the supporting and suspension apparatus
- stress urinary incontinence
- Cystocele

### External links

- Tendinous arch of pelvic fascia (English Wikipedia article)

### Reference

1. HALUZÍK, Kamil. *Základy funkční a operační anatomie* [lecture for subject Gynekologie a porodnictví předstátnicová stáž, specialization Všeobecné lékařství, 1. lékařská fakulta Univerzita Karlova]. Praha. 19.2.2014. Available from <<https://el.lf1.cuni.cz/gpsvabik1>>.
2. DELANCEY, J. Structural support of the urethra as it relates to stress urinary incontinence: the hammock hypothesis. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* [online]. 1994, vol. 170, no. 6, p. 1713-20; discussion 1720-3, Available from <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8203431>>. ISSN 0002-9378.