

Colposcopy Outpatients Patient Information



The Information Standard Certified Member

Information

If you need this information in large print, easy read, on audiotape or in another language please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail pals@dchft.nhs.uk

If you wish to obtain a list of the sources used to develop this information leaflet please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail patient.info@dchft.nhs.uk

Author: Miss A Cooper
Role: Lead Colposcopy Consultant
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LLETZ treatment in the Colposcopy Clinic

4



You may have been called back to the colposcopy clinic for a treatment because of an abnormality found at your previous visit, or this may be your first visit to colposcopy where treatment may be offered.

It is quite normal to be anxious about coming to the clinic to have a treatment. If you are feeling very apprehensive, please discuss this with your GP who may prescribe you some medication to help you relax.

Please ensure you have eaten on the day of your appointment prior to your treatment.

Please ensure that you take all your medication as per normal on the day of the appointment unless advised otherwise. Please contact the department if you have any queries regarding this.

Indication for Treatment:

- You may have had a biopsy or smear showing abnormal cells that need treatment, or your consultant has recommended this treatment
- You will have been told there is an abnormality on the cervix, which is not cancer but needs to be removed in order to return your smears to normal
- The treatment involved is called a loop excision (LLETZ). This means that the area of the neck of the womb which contains the abnormal cells is removed
- The area removed may be small or slightly larger, depending on the area of abnormality seen

Are there any risks involved with this procedure?

- This procedure is considered to be a safe and effective treatment, but all medical procedures carry some risks. The doctor/nurse will discuss these risks with you

Specific risks associated with this procedure are:

- Very occasionally, heavy bleeding which may require treatment in theatre and/or a blood transfusion
- Infection which may result in prolonged or heavy discharge, pain or soreness in the vagina
- Very rarely changes in the cervical canal can occur as a result of treatment. These include cervical stenosis, where the opening of the cervix closes over. This can cause problems in taking a smear and also occasionally in labour
- Very occasionally cervical weakness may occur, which can increase your chance of a premature delivery in pregnancy

These complications are extremely rare.

Are there any alternatives to this operation?

Loop excision (LLETZ) is considered to be the most effective treatment method for CIN (Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia)

What could happen if I do not have the treatment?

- The abnormal cells on the cervix may develop into cancer in the future. More extensive treatment could be required if the abnormal cells are left untreated
- Occasionally these abnormalities may resolve without treatment in some women

Procedure:

- The procedure itself is usually carried out in the Colposcopy clinic
- We will ask you to sign a consent form to say that you understand what is going to happen to you
- If you have a coil (IUD) it will be removed prior to the procedure. Please refrain from intercourse for 1 week prior to treatment. You will need to use an alternative form of contraception until your coil can be reinserted, which is usually 4-6 weeks later
- A local anaesthetic is administered to the cervix. This is occasionally uncomfortable, but after the anaesthetic has been introduced you should not feel any more of the procedure
- The abnormal area on the cervix will then be removed; this takes a few seconds. Any bleeding will be settled with cautery (sealing with heat)

- When the procedure is over you will be asked to remain in the clinic for about 15 minutes and then will be allowed to go home
- We suggest that you bring a friend with you to the hospital to accompany you

Following treatment:

- Most women will have some bleeding following treatment. This ranges from a small amount of spotting to a light period. This will become a watery discharge and can last for up to 6 weeks. Please be aware of signs of infection such as increased pain, heavy bleeding or offensive discharge, in which case you should see your GP and it may be necessary to give you some antibiotics
- The local anaesthetic will wear off over the next couple of hours. We recommend you take painkillers such as paracetamol if required
- The doctor from the clinic will notify you of the results of your treatment in the next few weeks. You will need to have a smear and HPV test 6 months after treatment. This may be done here or at your GP surgery
- Your next period may be abnormal; it may be prolonged, heavier or lighter

Advice following treatment:

- We recommend that you do not have sexual intercourse or use tampons for a month after treatment to reduce the risk of infection
- We recommend that you do not swim for 2 weeks afterwards, again to avoid infection
- We also recommend that you have a couple of days off work if it involves heavy lifting following the procedure
- It is not unusual to postpone treatment if you are having a period
- If you have any further questions or concerns, then please contact us on one of the numbers listed below

Contact Telephone Numbers:

Dorset County Hospital (Switchboard): 01305 251150

Colposcopy Appointments: 01305 255729

Colposcopy Nurse: 01305 254239

