



Having a Colposcopy Examination after an Abnormal Cervical Screening Test (smear Test) Result

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please bring this leaflet with you when you attend clinic

You have been invited to attend the colposcopy clinic, please take time to read the information about this procedure and complete the form on the last page.

An abnormal cervical screening result is not uncommon. About one in ten women have a test result which shows some abnormality. We cannot give you a precise answer as to why you have had an abnormal cervical screening result but there are factors which may be linked to the development of an abnormality. These include certain types of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). This is transmitted during sexual intercourse and often shows no symptoms. It is possible that you may have had the virus for some time without knowing about it. We also know that smoking affects the cells on the cervix.

Colposcopy is an examination to look closely at your cervix (please read the leaflet enclosed). Before the examination, the colposcopist, the doctor or nurse performing the colposcopy examination, will ask you questions about your medical history. After which you will be taken to the changing area where you will need to undress from the waist down and asked to change into a hospital gown. The nurses looking after you and assisting the colposcopist will then help you to get into a comfortable position on the examination couch. The colposcopy examination usually takes around 15–20 minutes.

We encourage you to bring another adult with you and advise that this clinic is not suitable for children and young people under 16; this is in case you have a treatment performed. It is likely you will have biopsies taken at your appointment, these are very small, approximately the size of a grain of rice, you may have some mild discomfort following this and advise you take some pain relief approximately 1 hour before your appointment. Following this small biopsy we would expect you to have some light bleeding for up to seven days so do not use tampons or have sexual intercourse until the discharge has cleared. At some clinics and **only with your consent**, there may also be a trainee doctor observing or a supervised trainee colposcopist who will carry out the examination.



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Having a Colposcopy Examination

During your examination the colposcopist may advise that treatment of your condition can easily be carried out under a local anaesthetic – this treatment is called a large loop excision of the transformation zone or LLETZ procedure. This will be fully discussed with you beforehand and will only go ahead with your permission.

What are the risks associated with treatment to the cervix?

There are no risks associated with having a colposcopy examination itself, but the following risks are associated with certain treatments to the cervix.

Bleeding: After the Lletz it is normal to have some light bleeding and discharge for up to **four weeks** following the treatment to your cervix. Initially we would expect you to have a discharge with or without bleeding. This may then become a very watery discharge. We would not expect you to have heavy bleeding with this treatment and if you are soaking pads and needing to change them every hour you will need to contact us on the number you have been given.

Please do not use tampons during the **four – six weeks** after your treatment. Even if you get your period, please only use sanitary towels. This allows time for the cervix to heal and lessens the risk of infection. Do not have sexual intercourse for **four - six weeks** following the Lletz and avoid swimming for **four weeks**, or at least until the vaginal discharge has stopped. This is to allow time for your cervix to heal and to lessen the risk of bleeding and infection.

Please note that you and your GP will be contacted with any results, this usually takes about 4 weeks and you will also receive a letter explaining if any further follow up or treatment is required.

I have my period. Can I still come to my appointment? We would certainly encourage you to come for your first colposcopy appointment even if you have your period. We can still do your colposcopy examination at this time.

What if I am pregnant? If you are pregnant and have had an abnormal cervical cytology result, we would still like to see you, but we may wait until you are more than 12 weeks pregnant. Please bring your antenatal notes with you to your appointment. A colposcopic examination can safely be performed when you are pregnant, however, you should phone us for further advice on **01793 605252**.

Infection: If you have a vaginal discharge which has an offensive (bad) smell following either a biopsy or Lletz, it may indicate that you have an infection. Please go to your GP, who may prescribe you antibiotics.



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Premature delivery: The LLETZ treatment will not affect your ability to become pregnant. However, some treatments may weaken the cervix and may slightly increase the risk of premature delivery. If you get pregnant at any time following a LLETZ, please inform your GP and midwife that you have had treatment to your cervix as this will affect who provides your ante-natal care.

Finding us: Colposcopy Department, Women's Health Outpatients, 2nd Floor, Great Western Hospital. Opening times 08.30 – 17.00 Mon - Fri

Gynaecology Outpatients: 01793 605252
Appointments Only: 01793 604820

Arriving by car:

Car parking at the hospital is limited, as the Trust operates a Green Transport policy and we encourage staff and visitors to use alternatives to driving wherever possible. Parking charges are pay on exit and are barrier controlled. Please allow plenty of time for parking as this is a very busy hospital.

Disabled Parking: There are spaces close to the hospital entrance.

Set down Area: For patients with walking difficulty, you may stop in front of the entrance for 20 minutes. Ask at reception in the hall for use of a wheelchair if this helps.

Arriving by bus: There are frequent services from the town centre and surrounding areas. For current bus times ring: (01793) 428428

By rail: The nearest railway station is Swindon, which is located in the town centre, 6 km (3.7 miles) from the hospital.

It is a short walk from Swindon Train Station to Swindon Bus Station, from where frequent bus services run to and from the hospital



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Personal Details (Please Complete)

Name:

Address:

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I have read and understood the enclosed information leaflets

I consent to a colposcopy examination

I understand that a photograph may be taken which will be filed in my notes and is solely for medical use

I understand that these photographs may be used for audit, training and teaching purposes

I understand that a biopsy of tissue may be taken

I understand that there may be a trainee doctor/colposcopist/visiting nurse present at my examination and I give my consent for this

Signature:

Date:

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

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