



## Operation Information

### Colposcopy ± Biopsy

#### Introduction

A colposcopy is a surgical procedure that allows the surgeon to access the cervix, vagina and vulva using a special instrument called a colposcope. This procedure can be used to diagnose a wide range of conditions that develop on the genital tract. If you have symptoms of cervical cancer or had an abnormal cervical smear test result, you may need to have a colposcopy. The surgeon will take a biopsy sample for further diagnostic and pathologic test if needed.

#### Outcomes

A colposcopy is used to look more clearly at the abnormal tissue and remove the tissue from the genital tract for laboratory test. A biopsy can help your doctor to diagnosis the grade of intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN/ VAIN/ VIN) in order to determine the suitable treatment for you.

#### Procedures

1. Insert a speculum into the vagina to expose the genital tract.
2. Wipe a solution of acetic acid onto your genital tract.
3. The abnormal tissue are identified.
4. A small piece of tissue is removed.
5. All tissue removed may be sent for examination.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Infection
2. Bleeding
3. Risk of abortion if pregnancy

\*\* The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all operations are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising. In the event of peripheral organ damage or post-operative haemorrhage or leakage, further operations may be required.

## Pre-operative Preparations

1. Good hygiene can prevent infection.
2. The procedure and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the operation.
3. You should inform the doctor if you are pregnant or suspected pregnancy.
4. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia.
5. You should not have sexual activities or use vaginal medications, lubricants, creams or tampons for at least 24 hours before the operation.
6. Depends on the type of biopsy, you may need to have local or general anaesthesia. Please discuss with your doctor to decide the suitable biopsy for you.
7. No food or drink six hours before operation. (For general anaesthesia only)
8. Please change into a surgical gown after removing all belongings including undergarments, dentures, jewelry and contact lenses.
9. Please empty your bladder before the operation.

## Post-operative Instructions

### General

1. After general anaesthesia, you may:
  - experience discomfort in the throat after tracheal intubation.
  - experience side effects of anaesthesia including feel tired, drowsy, nausea or vomiting. Inform the nurse if symptoms persist or worsen.
2. Please inform the nurse of wound pain. Proper pain relief treatment by injection or oral medication may be prescribed by the doctor.

### Wound Care

1. You may have some bleeding from vagina and some blood-stained vaginal discharge after the operations.
2. You may experience some soreness in your vagina for a day or two.
3. If following a cone biopsy, a dressing (pack) may be placed in the vagina to help stop any bleeding. The dressing will be removed by the doctor afterward.

## Advice on Discharge

1. Sanitary pads (**not tampons**) may be used for a few weeks for vaginal discharge and light bleeding.
2. Sexual activities can be resumed after four weeks.
3. You can take a bath or shower as normal, please avoid long soaks in the bath and bubble baths until your discharge has stopped
4. You should avoid swimming for at least two weeks or while there's still any bleeding or discharge.
5. Please wait about four weeks for your biopsy results.
6. Immediately consult your doctor or return to hospital for professional attention in the event of persistent bleeding or discharge from vagina that smells unpleasant, pelvic and belly pain, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100.4°F, or any other unusual symptoms etc.
7. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details  
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification

