

Cervical biopsies

Colposcopy unit

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

Why do I need a cervical biopsy?

Your cervical screening test has shown evidence of abnormal cells. It is important to remember that it is very unlikely that these changes are cancer. They can represent infection with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) or can be pre-cancerous changes (CIN=Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia). Pre-cancerous changes (CIN) left unmonitored or untreated over several years, they might become cancer in the future. A colposcopic examination of your cervix has shown an area of your cervix that needs a closer look.

What is a cervical biopsy?

A cervical biopsy involves removing a small sample of tissue from the surface of your cervix. The biopsy is about the size of a pencil tip.

The procedure is carried out during your appointment in the colposcopy unit, by a doctor or nurse Colposcopist. The biopsy is for testing and not meant to be a treatment.

Will the biopsy hurt?

Local anaesthetic is not usually needed for this procedure. You may feel a slight sting/pinch, which may be uncomfortable but it should not be painful.

How will I feel after my procedure?

You may have some period type pain for a short time following your biopsy. Painkillers such as paracetamol should control this discomfort. You may have slight vaginal bleeding or a slight brownish discharge after your biopsy. This may last for two to five days.

Does someone need to come with me to my appointment?

This is not essential, but you may wish to arrange this.

When will I get my results?

The cervical biopsy will be sent to the histology laboratory for examination. Your doctor will write to you (and your GP) with your results within 2-6 weeks of your appointment. It should be clear from this letter what follow-up you will need.

Will I need a follow-up appointment?

Depending on the result of your biopsy, you may be asked either to come to the clinic for treatment (within 2-6 weeks), or follow-up (usually in 6 or 12 months), or you may be returned to the routine cervical screen recall programme.

What should I avoid when I return home after my biopsy?

You are advised to avoid having sex or using tampons and vaginal medication/creams/lubricants for around four to five days. We also ask you to shower and avoid swimming until any vaginal discharge has stopped. This will allow your cervix to heal and avoid the risk of infection.

Are there any specific signs to look out for?:

Continuous bleeding that is not a normal period.

Smelly discharge.

References

Cervical Screening Programme

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

Colposcopy and programme management NHSCSP

<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/population-screening-programmes-cervical>

There may be students and observers present during your consultation as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance

Please ask a member of staff if you would like a chaperone present during your procedure.

For further information:

www.bsccp.org.uk/women

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cervical-screening-programme-overview>

Contact information

Your own GP

Walk-in centre

Gynaecology Assessment Bay (GAB) open 24hours – 01695 656 901

Gynaecology secretary - 01695 656 123 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm)

For appointments

Telephone 01695 656 279 (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm)

Email: soh-tr.appointments@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department sister/charge nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

What if I feel unwell when I get home or have further questions?

If you feel unwell at home or have any questions, please contact one of the following

Gynaecology Assessment Bay (GAB) - 01695 656 901 (open 24 hours)

Local GP

Walk in centre.

What if I have to cancel my appointment?

If for any reason you are not able to keep your clinic appointment or if you are having your period at the time of any further colposcopy appointments, please telephone the relevant colposcopy suite to book another appointment. Having your period does not always mean you cannot be seen, however, we may have to reschedule your appointment.

Gynaecology Secretaries (open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm)

01695 656 262

01695 656 658

01695 656 123

Appointments line (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm)

01695 656 279

Southport & Formby Hospital
Town Lane,
Kew,
Southport,
Merseyside,
PR8 6PN
Telephone:
01704 547 471

Ormskirk Hospital
Dicconson Way,
Wigan Road,
Ormskirk,
Lancashire,
L39 2AZ
Telephone:
01695 577 111