

Cone Biopsy

This minor operation is recommended when the abnormal cells are higher in the cervical canal and/or affect glandular cells. Glandular cells appear higher up in the cervical canal.

In this minor operation, a cone-shaped section of the cervix that contains the abnormal cells is removed. This procedure is performed under a general anaesthetic and is a day stay at the hospital.

If you have a cone biopsy and later become pregnant, you must tell your doctor. Uncommonly, the cervix may become weakened by the cone biopsy, and your doctor may wish to take special precautions in your pregnancy.

Post-Procedure Care

After the LLETZ procedure or Cone Biopsy you should not swim, soak in the bath or spa, use tampons or have vaginal intercourse for four to six weeks until the cervix has healed to avoid infection. Strenuous exercise should also be avoided for seven to ten days as this increases the risk of bleeding.

You should look out for signs of infection such as persistent heavy bleeding, offensive smelly discharge or ongoing pain. Contact your GP or the rooms if you suspect you have any of these symptoms.

If you have a concern post your procedure:

During Business Hours:

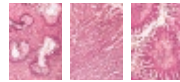
Contact WA Gynae & Surgery - 9388 3495

After Hours: Nurse manager at SJOG Subiaco - 9382 6111

Emergency requiring urgent assistance:

KEMH or your nearest emergency department

If you are happy to see your GP, then please do so.



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COLPOSCOPY



What does the Cervical Screening Test detect?

The Cervical Screening Test (CST) is similar to the Pap test. It looks for the common human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in the cells of your cervix, as well as abnormal cells in the cervix. This new approach is more effective at detecting the pre – cancerous changes in the cervix.

What is HPV?

There are many types of HPV infections and most are cleared naturally by the body's immune system within one to two years without causing problems.

HPV is a very common infection that is spread by genital-skin to skin contact during sexual activity. HPV is so common that many people have it at some point in their lives and never know, as there are usually no symptoms.

In rare cases, some types of HPV infection that are not cleared by the body can cause abnormal cervical cell changes. Cervical cancer is rare and it usually takes 10 or more years for the virus that causes most precancerous abnormalities to develop into cervical cancer. It is expected that the changes to the National Cervical Screening Program will protect up to 30% more women from cervical cancer.

What is a Colposcopy?

You will require a colposcopic examination if you have had an abnormal CST. A colposcopy is a visual examination of the cervix with a magnifying instrument called a colposcope. The cervix is painted with weak acetic acid, causing abnormal cells to turn white. A second dye, iodine, may be used in conjunction to further highlight the abnormality.

The specialist will use the colposcope to visualise the highlighted areas under high magnitude.

Biopsy

A biopsy will be taken at the area that appears abnormal. This will feel like a pinch and may cause some period like cramping or discomfort for a short time. Take simple analgesia such as paracetamol or an anti-inflammatory if required.

The specialist uses some paste at the site of the biopsy to stop bleeding. You may however experience some light 'spotting' for up to 48 hours; a thin sanitary pad or panty liner will be available post biopsy if required.

Avoid rigorous exercise for 24 hours and it is best to avoid sexual intercourse for one to two days. You can shower; however avoid swimming, bathing and spas for one to two days. These precautions reduce your risk of bleeding and/or infection.

Results will be confirmed usually in 7-10 days and the nurse will be in contact with you to discuss if you require further treatment.

Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone (LLETZ)

If the biopsy results indicate a high-grade abnormality the affected area will need treatment. The specialist uses a "LLETZ" technique to do this. This is a very quick way of removing the small area with the abnormal cells.

The procedure is similar to that of your colposcopy, only it is performed in the day surgery unit at the hospital and you will receive a local anaesthetic to the area prior to performing the excision. Layers of the abnormal cells are removed from the cervix with a fine wire loop and the area receives some diathermy to stop the bleeding.

Colposcopy

