

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide information on the general facts about your operation or condition. We hope to explain to you what your procedure entails and what will happen to you during and after your treatment.

The Procedure:

This is a form of treatment used to destroy abnormal cells in the cervix (neck of the womb).

The Treatment:

A preliminary vaginal examination is carried out. To prevent any discomfort a local anaesthetic is injected with a very fine needle directly into the cervix. A hot probe is applied to the cervix to destroy the abnormal area. A nurse will be with you throughout the procedure. Some women are very sensitive to even touch the cervix and may have this procedure done under general anaesthesia which will be performed in the Day Care Unit.

After the Treatment:

Healing of the cervix will now commence. The new skin is very delicate and will bleed readily if disturbed in any way.

- You may have some vaginal bleeding and watery discharge which may last for up to four weeks. This

should not be heavier than a period or be offensive to smell. If you experience the latter this could be a sign of infection and you should contact your GP who may prescribe antibiotics.

The following advice should help promote healing:

- Avoid sexual intercourse for 4 weeks or until the bleeding stops.
- Refrain from swimming, horse riding or vigorous exercise for 4 weeks.
- Avoid using tampons for 4 weeks, use sanitary pads instead.
- Shower daily rather than bath as the latter may increase the risk of infection.
- You may experience period-like abdominal pain. We would advise you to take mild painkillers such as Paracetamol.
- There may be a temporary change to the pattern of your periods.
- You can continue with your daily routine straight away, however some women feel a little wobbly after the treatment. If this is the case we would advise you to take things easy for the rest of the day.

Please note if you travel abroad you may not be covered by insurance should

any complications related to the treatment arise. Please check with your insurance company.

Risks and complications:

This procedure has a 95% success rate, with the majority of women having no further abnormal smears.

If you experience heavy bleeding please contact the Colposcopy clinic on the numbers given as you may be advised to return to Colposcopy for a further review.

Follow up and results:

Your GP will be sent a copy of the results with the clinic letter. You will receive a letter informing you of the results and follow up arrangements. This can take up to six weeks. We are unable to give you your results over the phone.

Useful Contacts:

If there is anything you do not understand or if you have any questions please contact us on the following telephone numbers:

Colposcopy Nurse Specialist –
01322 428189

Colposcopy Secretary – 01322 428447

Useful websites:

Women talking about their experience of cervical screening :

www.healthtalkonline.org

www.bsccp.org.uk

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from NHS 111. Telephone number: 111, or go to www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

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