

Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Does this procedure affect my ability to have children?

No. If your doctor does take a biopsy sample, the amount of tissue taken from your cervix is very small and removing it will not affect any future pregnancies. However it is important to let your doctor know if you are pregnant now. This information will change the way your doctor does the procedure.

Will I have bleeding after a colposcopy?

You may have a dark colored vaginal discharge after the colposcopy. If your doctor takes a biopsy sample, they will put a thick brownish-yellow paste on the area to stop any bleeding. When this paste mixes with blood it forms a thick black discharge. It is normal to have this discharge for a couple of days after the procedure. It is also normal to have a little spotting for at least 2 days after the colposcopy.

Can I use tampons after the procedure?

No. Do not use tampons or put anything in your vagina for at least 1 week after the procedure or until your doctor tells you it is safe. Do not have sexual intercourse for at least 1 week.

When should I call my doctor?

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following problems after your colposcopy:

- Heavy vaginal bleeding (filling more than one sanitary pad in an hour)
- Lower abdominal pain
- Fever, chills, or a foul-smelling vaginal odor

When will I get the results of my colposcopy?

It usually takes 1-2 weeks for your doctor to get a report from the pathologist who looks at your biopsy. Your doctor's office will contact you when these results are available.

Is the procedure painful?

If your doctor takes a biopsy sample, you may feel mild cramps and pinching when they remove the abnormal tissue. Relaxing your muscles as much as possible and taking slow deep breaths during the procedure may help. You may feel less discomfort if you take an over the counter pain reliever before the procedure. Ask your doctor what kind of medicine you should take, how much to take, and when to take it before the procedure.

How should I prepare to have a colposcopy?

You may be more comfortable if you empty your bladder and bowels before the procedure. Do not douche, have sexual intercourse, or use a tampon for 24 hours before your appointment.

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Colposcopy

What is a colposcopy?

A colposcopy is a way your doctor can examine your vagina and cervix closely. A colposcope is an instrument that shines a light on the cervix and magnifies the view for your doctor. At the beginning of the exam, you will lie back and place your feet in stirrups as you would for a pap smear. Your doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina and open it so they can see your cervix. Then your doctor applies a vinegar solution to the cervix and vagina with a cotton ball or swab. The vinegar makes abnormal tissue turn white so your doctor can identify areas that may need further evaluation.

If your doctor sees areas of abnormal tissue during the colposcopy, they may also perform a biopsy. This involves removing small samples of tissue from any abnormal areas in or around the cervix. A specialist doctor called a pathologist will examine these samples. It usually only takes 20 or 30 minutes for your doctor to complete the colposcopy and biopsy.

Why is a colposcopy performed?

A colposcopy is usually performed to help your doctor find the reason for an abnormal pap smear.

Why is the colposcopy important?

A colposcopy is important because it can detect cancer of the cervix at an early stage. Be sure to talk with your doctor after the test so that any problems are taken care of right away.