

Information for Patients

Your colposcopy procedure – Punch biopsy

The procedure you have had today is called a punch biopsy. We have taken a tiny piece of tissue, the size of a grain of rice, from your cervix and we will send this to the laboratory. They will examine this closely to see if there are changes in the cells that need treatment.

What are the benefits of having this procedure?

We can often assess the cervix by only using colposcopy. However, sometimes we need to take a piece of tissue to help us to decide if you need any treatment.

What should I normally expect after the procedure?

- You may feel discomfort like period pain for a few hours after the procedure. You should take your normal painkillers to help with this pain, but do not take more than the recommended dose
- Usually, you will have a brown or red discharge from your vagina for up to 4 days after we take the piece of tissue. Do not worry if you do not have any discharge or if the discharge continues slightly longer than 4 days, as everyone's cervix heals differently
- Do not use tampons for 5 days after the procedure, or until the discharge stops. Instead, use pads or panty liners
- We recommend that you do not have sex, go swimming or use a hot tub or jacuzzi until the discharge stops, to allow the area to heal
- We sometimes apply silver nitrate paste to reduce bleeding. This can cause you to have some black coloured discharge for a few days.
- You can have a bath or shower as normal

Are there any risks to this procedure?

Complications are very rare, but you may get an infection in the area we took the piece of tissue from. If this happens, you may need to take antibiotics. It is normal to have some spotting and discomfort for a few days. If you have heavy bleeding contact your GP or NHS 111.

Symptoms of an infection

- High temperature or strong-smelling discharge.
- Pain. You should take your normal painkillers to help with this pain, but do not take more than the recommended dose.

If you develop an infection, this may happen immediately after the treatment or any time within the next 14 days. If you have any of the above symptoms, it is very important that you contact NHS 111, your GP or the colposcopy clinic for advice, as you may need another examination or antibiotics.

Returning to normal activities

You should be able to return to work and normal activities the same day you have your procedure.

We will be writing to your GP to tell them that you have had this procedure.

We will send you a letter within 4 weeks with your results which will explain if you need any more treatment or tests. If you do not receive this letter within 6 weeks of your last visit to the clinic, please contact us.

More information

If you have any more questions about your treatment, contact the colposcopy administrators on [01952 565967](tel:01952565967) / [565968](tel:565968) / [565969](tel:565969)

NHS Choices: The UK's biggest health website, certified as a reliable source of health information: www.nhs.uk

Patient UK: Evidence based information on a wide range of medical and health topics: www.patient.info

Further information is available from:



Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback which can be shared in a number of ways through the hospital website. Scan the QR code to give feedback. www.sath.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/feedback/

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS will act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, they can also help you get support from other local or national agencies. PALS, is a confidential service.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: [0800 783 0057](tel:08007830057) or [01743 261691](tel:01743261691)

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: [01952 282888](tel:01952282888)

Other Sources of Information

NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

111 (free from a landline or mobile) www.nhs.uk

Self Help & Support Groups

A selection of websites providing access to good quality health information, local organisations and community groups is available from the library. www.library.sath.nhs.uk/find/patients/

Information in Other Languages or Formats

If you require this information in a different way such as easy read, a different language, larger print, audio or braille please tell a member of staff or contact the Patient Experience Team;

sath.patientexperience@nhs.net or [01743 261000](tel:01743261000) ext. 2503.

Your information

Information about you and your healthcare is held by the NHS. You can find out more about how we hold your information and how it is used on our website: www.sath.nhs.uk

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

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