

Cervical Biopsy, Cone Biopsy & LLETZ Under General Anaesthetic/Intravenous Sedation

You have been asked to have this procedure performed under a general anaesthetic because, in your case, it is not appropriate to be carried out as an outpatient procedure. These notes give a guide to your operation and your stay in hospital. They also give an idea about what it will be like afterwards. They do not however, cover everything so if you want to know more, please ask.

What exactly are these procedures?

All these procedures are done to remove some tissue from the neck of the womb (cervix) so that it can be analysed by the laboratory.

Why must I have anything done?

The most common reason for having any of these procedures is the presence of 'abnormal cells' on your cervical smear. This is not unusual; about one in twelve smears are abnormal. These abnormal cells act as early warning signals that cancer might develop in the future, if they are left alone. Only very rarely will a biopsy show cell changes that have already developed into cancer. It is therefore important that you keep your appointment.

Why are there different procedures?

Which of the three procedures are performed depends on how much tissue is to be taken from the cervix.

1. **Cervical Biopsy** - This is when a very small amount (approximately 2mms in size) is removed for analysis. In some instances you may have to return for a further procedure.
2. **LLETZ** - This stands for 'Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone'. This is classed as treatment for your abnormal smear. During this procedure a wire loop is used to remove the abnormal cells from your cervix. It is a very quick and effective procedure.
3. **Cone Biopsy** - This is done when a much larger and deeper amount of tissue is taken from the cervix. Again this is classed as treatment for your abnormal smear.

How long does it take?

The procedure itself is very short and takes between 15 and 30 minutes. However additional time is required to administer the anaesthetic/intravenous sedation and for you to recover from it afterwards.

How long will I be in hospital?

We expect you to be in hospital for half a day and that you will go home the same day. Very rarely, some patients may have to stay longer if they experience heavy bleeding after the procedure.

Aftercare following a Cervical Biopsy

- You may have a reddish-black discharge for three-five days.
- If the bleeding becomes severe i.e. heavier than a period and you are not due your period, then please contact us for further advice.
- Avoid intercourse until this discharge has stopped, to allow the biopsy site to heal.
- Avoid using tampons whilst you have this discharge as they can be a source of infection.
- For any other problems, please contact your General practitioner (GP) for further advice.

Aftercare following a LLETZ/Cone Biopsy

- Avoid intercourse for three-four weeks to allow the treatment site on your cervix to heal
- Avoid using tampons for four weeks, whilst you are bleeding, as these can be a source of infection during the healing process
- Any discharge/bleeding should stop after three-four weeks. If at first you have no bleeding, you may start to have some fresh bleeding 7-10 days after treatment; this is part of the healing process and is nothing to worry about.
- If your discharge has an unpleasant smell, please contact your GP, as you may have an infection that requires antibiotics
- In case of excessive vaginal discharge or bleeding, which is heavier than your normal period and contains clots, then please contact us for further advice
- You may find that your next period may be heavier with some period like pains. Your usual pain killers may be taken if necessary.
- For any other problems, please contact your GP for advice

When will I get the results?

- We will write to you within three-four weeks with the results of your treatment and a plan of care.
- With some patients your results may need to be discussed at a Colposcopy Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT), to confirm the results and finalise your plan of care. These meetings happen twice a month. We will inform you if this is happening, but a consequence of this will be a delay in informing you of your final results.

Contact numbers for Advice

For patients attending Peterborough City Hospital: **01733 673758**

For patients attending Hinchingsbrooke Hospital: **01480 416084**

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