

Useful contacts:

Colposcopy

Gynaecology Outpatients Department
Available Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 4.00pm
Direct Line: 01270 612172

Gynaecology Ward

Direct Line: 01270 612199

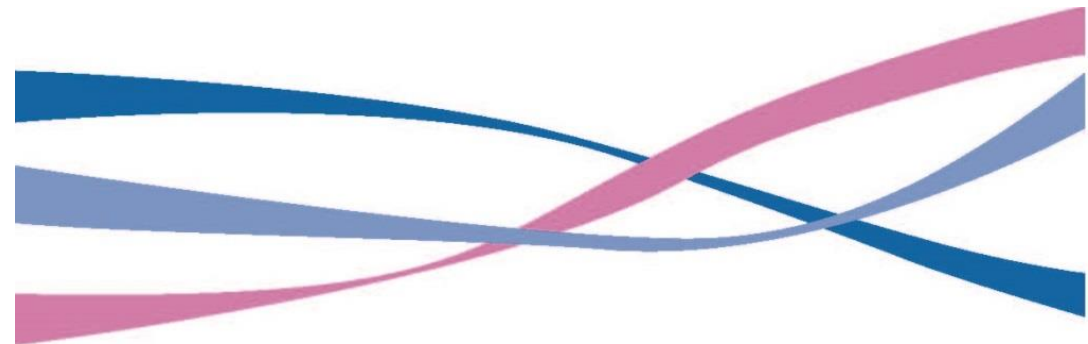
Leighton Hospital
Middlewich Road
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 4QJ

This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please telephone 01270 612172.



Having a Cone Biopsy

Important information for patients



Can the problem come back?

Sometimes the problem may continue. If so it is most likely in the first two to three years. In the unlikely event that the abnormal cells return or are not completely treated by the cone biopsy then treatment is decided on an individual basis.

The medical and nursing staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you have any questions, write them down so you do not forget to ask:

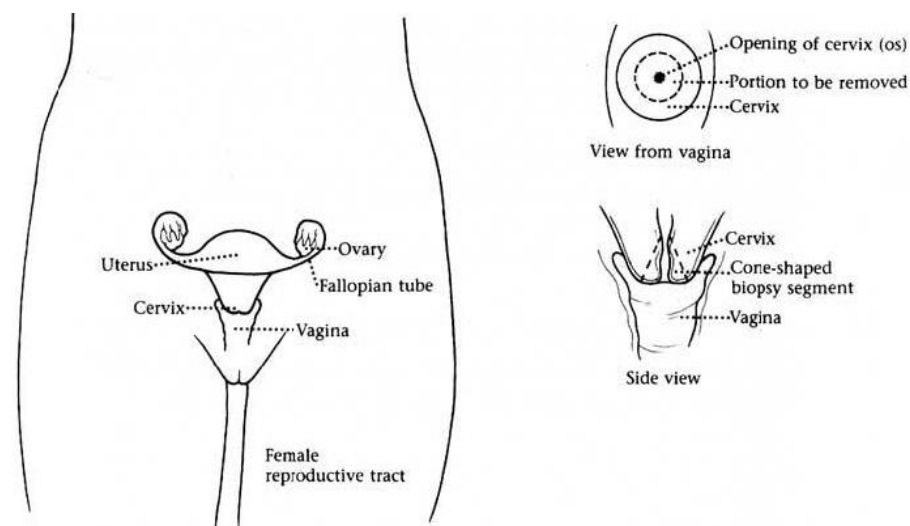
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Why do I need a cone biopsy?

Your smear test and/or colposcopy may have shown some abnormal cells on your cervix (neck of the womb) or in the canal of your cervix. They are known as CIN (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia) and CGIN (cervical glandular intraepithelial neoplasia). It is important to remember that it is very rare for these cells to be cancerous. However, if left untreated they may in a few patients turn cancerous over the next 10 – 15 years. We treat these cells by removing them from the cervix. A cone biopsy may also be performed for other reasons. If this is the case your Gynaecology Doctor will explain why you should have a cone biopsy.

What is involved?

A cone shaped piece of tissue containing the abnormal area is cut away and sent to the laboratory for examination. It is usually cut away using a scalpel. This procedure is performed under a general anaesthetic (which means you will be asleep throughout) and takes approximately 15 minutes.



Are there any risks involved in having a cone biopsy?

As with any procedure, there is a small chance that you may have side-effects or complications.

- There is a small risk of heavy bleeding immediately after your procedure or up to 10 - 14 days following your procedure.

Please contact your GP, the Gynaecology Ward or the Gynaecology Outpatient's Department at Leighton Hospital. Contact numbers on back page) or go to the Urgent Care Department (Emergency Department) at Leighton Hospital, as you may need further treatment to stop the bleeding.

- There is a small risk you may develop an infection that will require antibiotic treatment.
- Very rarely, the cervix may be weakened which can result in miscarriage or early labour if you have a baby after the procedure.
- The cervix will be scarred and may narrow, which may increase period pain and or difficulty obtaining adequate smears in the future.
- Rarely the cervix can become closed. If this happens you may require further surgery to dilate (enlarge) the cervical canal.

What should I expect after the operation?

You may have a gauze pack put into your vagina at the time of your operation to reduce any bleeding. The pack will be removed on your doctor's instructions, usually the morning after. You will be advised to rest on your bed for a couple of hours after the pack is removed to ensure there is no heavy bleeding.

If a pack is used it will be difficult to pass urine as the pack can get in the way so a catheter is usually put in the bladder while the pack is inside.

Sometimes you can go home later the same day, occasionally you will need to stay in longer for example overnight. You will need to stay in if you have a pack and a catheter.

Some light bleeding, brownish/black or watery discharge is expected for up to 6 weeks. Any other discharge, particularly if it smells offensive, bright red or heavy should be reported to your GP as this is a sign of infection and may need treatment with antibiotics.

Your period may be light or heavy, early or late for two to three months following treatment. You should not have sexual intercourse for four weeks in order to let the cervix heal and avoid infection. It is advisable to avoid using tampons for four weeks. Refrain from swimming and strenuous exercise until the bleeding has stopped.

Discharge information and at home advice

Pain relief

Many women do not have pain afterwards. However, you may feel a mild period like pain. If so, please take paracetamol or ibuprofen at the manufacturers' usual dose.

Returning to work

If your bleeding is not heavy and you feel ready, you may return to work after a week.

Follow-up appointment

Most women will require an appointment for a colposcopy and a smear test 6 months after the procedure. This will be sent to you in the post. If you do not receive an appointment, please contact the Colposcopy Department on 01270 612172.

For most women, a cone biopsy will remove all abnormal tissue and no further treatment will be required. However, you may need more regular smear tests after this treatment. This will be discussed with you at your next appointment. It is important to keep your appointments for these to make sure that your cervix remains healthy.

We will send you a letter which explains the result of your treatment and confirms your follow up arrangements.