

Having cervical cautery

Introduction

Welcome to the Colposcopy Clinic. This leaflet aims to help women having a cautery to the cervix (neck of the womb). We hope this information will be useful for you.

What is cervical cautery?

Cervical cautery is a method of treating problems associated with the cervix, most commonly post-coital bleeding (bleeding with sexual intercourse) with heat.

The procedure will be carried out under local anaesthetic (i.e. you are awake) and you will be able to go home the same day after the procedure.

Will it be painful afterwards?

Some women do experience a slight abdominal discomfort for a few hours. This is like a period pain. You may need to take a mild painkiller.

Will I bleed afterwards?

You may have a blood-stained discharge for up to four weeks after your treatment.

However, if the discharge lasts more than four weeks or starts to smell offensive, contact your GP or the Colposcopy Clinic.

If you have any heavy bleeding please contact your GP or the Colposcopy Clinic.

Your cervix will heal with little or no scarring.

We recommend that you do not use tampons, have showers instead of baths and avoid swimming until the discharge has stopped completely.

How soon afterwards can I have sex?

While your cervix is healing, it is vulnerable to infection and damage. For this reason we advise you not to have sex for four weeks or until the discharge has stopped completely.

Do I need time off work?

No. You can carry out all your normal activities including work although it is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise for a couple of weeks.

How and when will I receive my result?

You may have had a cervical biopsy (small sample of tissue) taken as well – if this is the case, the clinic doctor will contact you and your GP with your results by letter. This can take up to 4-6 weeks. Unfortunately we are unable to give you your results over the telephone.

Do I need to see the doctor again?

You may not need to see the doctor again. If you have had a biopsy, the clinic doctor will contact you by letter to discuss whether any further treatment is necessary. However, if you have any concerns following your cauterly, please contact your GP.

Useful contacts

We hope this information has been useful for you. If there is anything you do not understand or if you have any questions, please ask the clinic nurse or telephone us:

Colposcopy Office 0118 322 7197 (general enquiries)

Shareen Toofany, Lead Nurse Colposcopist 0118 322 7283 (clinical enquiries)

The Colposcopy Clinic is located on Sonning Ward, Level 5 Maternity Block, Craven Road

Useful websites

1. www.bsccp.org.uk
2. www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

For more information about the Trust, visit our website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Written by L Felix. Colposcopy Clinic, July 2014

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