

Cancer Screening Programmes

Your colposcopy procedure – Loop diathermy of the cervix (LLETZ)

The treatment that you have had today is called loop diathermy of the cervix (LLETZ). During the procedure we used an electric current to remove abnormal tissue from your cervix.

What are the benefits of having this procedure?

This procedure removes the abnormal cells from your cervix, which helps to reduce the risk of cervical cancer developing in the future.

What should I normally expect after the procedure?

- You may feel discomfort, a bit like period pain, for a few hours after the procedure. You should take your normal painkillers to ease this pain, but do not take more than the recommended dose.
- Usually, you will have a brown or red discharge from your vagina for two to four weeks after you have the procedure. Do not worry if you do not have any discharge or if the discharge continues slightly longer than four weeks, as everyone's cervix heals differently.
- Do **not** use tampons for at least four weeks after the procedure, or until the discharge stops. Instead, use pads or panty liners.
- You can have a bath or shower as normal.
- Your periods may be different straight after the treatment, but should soon settle into their usual pattern.

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.

Symptoms of an infection

- High temperature or strong-smelling discharge.
- Pain. You should take your normal painkillers to ease this pain, but do not take more than the recommended dose.
- A large amount of bleeding (heavier than your usual period). We usually stop any bleeding during the procedure. If the bleeding is heavy, we may need to use a stitch and a vaginal pack (a bandage placed in the vagina). If we need to give you a stitch, you may have to have a general anaesthetic. If this happens, you may need to stay in hospital overnight to make sure the bleeding settles.

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

Other rare complications

- Stenosis – This is where the opening at the neck of the womb becomes narrow. This could temporarily affect your menstrual cycle and fertility, as the opening would be closed as a result of scarring. If this happens, we may carry out another procedure to open the neck of the womb.
- You may have a higher risk of having slightly premature babies, but this is extremely rare.

Returning to normal activities

- You should be able to return to work and normal activities the day after you have your procedure. You should avoid intense exercise or lifting anything heavy for a day or so after the procedure. We recommend that you do not have sex or go swimming until the discharge stops, to allow the area to heal.

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

You will need to have follow-up cervical screening tests to check if the treatment has been successful. It is very important that you have these tests.

We will send you a letter with your results and details of your next cervical screening test. If you do not receive this letter within eight weeks of your last visit to the clinic, please contact us.

More information

If you have any more questions about your treatment, phone our clinic on 0121 627 2698

Contact names: Debbie Wise (Clinical Nurse Specialist)
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Amanda Sutton (Clinical Nurse Specialist)

We have taken great care to make sure the information in this leaflet is accurate.

However, we do not take responsibility for any inaccurate or missing information in this leaflet. If you are worried about this information, please contact us.



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Reference Centre
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