

## **Gynaecology: Colposcopy Clinic**

# **Punch biopsy of the cervix**

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **What is a biopsy?**

A biopsy is a very small piece of tissue that is removed from the cervix quickly and with only a little discomfort. It is not necessary to use a local anaesthetic and most patients are not aware that the biopsy has been taken.

This little piece of tissue is then put into some preserving fluid and sent to the Pathology Department for examination.

#### **Why did I need this biopsy?**

If the colposcopist (nurse or doctor) identifies any abnormal areas on the cervix a small biopsy will be taken. This tissue is sent to the pathologist who examines the tissue to see whether the sample is a low grade or a high grade abnormality.

The colposcopist performing the examination can show you your cervix and the area identified as being abnormal on a screen connected to the colposcope and at this time can discuss with you what is happening.

#### **What can I expect after the biopsy?**

You may have a small amount of vaginal discharge or bleeding that may last for a few days. You may also experience a little abdominal discomfort for the remainder of the day. You can resume normal activities including sexual activity after 24 hours.



## Patient Information

If you have any concerns following your biopsy or wish to discuss your management please ring Amanda Clarson (Nurse Colposcopist) on 024 7696 6598. If Amanda is not available please leave a message on the answering machine with your telephone number and she will reply as soon as she is available.

The Colposcopy Department is open from 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Telephone 024 7696 6598 (there is an answering machine for out of hours)

### What happens next?

Your consultant receives a report from the pathologist usually within a couple of weeks and will write to you with the results.

If the biopsy does not show any significant abnormality we may be able to discharge you to normal cytology recall (3 yearly)

If the biopsy shows any abnormal changes that may progress towards a pre-cancerous condition we will want to bring you back to the Colposcopy Unit to discuss treatment.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 6598 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

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