

Patient Information

Gynaecology: Colposcopy Unit

Surgicel Gauze

What is Surgicel?

Surgicel is a sterile absorbable piece of gauze that has two benefits:

- It acts like a blood clot when this is needed to assist in the control of bleeding.
- It kills bacteria, which helps to prevent infection.

Surgicel has been widely used in surgical procedures such as tooth extractions, nose bleeds and general surgery and can be used within the vagina quite safely.

The Surgicel gauze we use is about the size of your little finger and swells into a black jelly like lump when placed in blood.

Why did I need Surgicel?

The doctor or nurse who performed your treatment today would have used the Surgicel gauze because the bleeding from your biopsy took longer to control than normal. Using Surgicel offers more protection from continued bleeding and infection.

What can I expect?

Surgicel swells up inside the vagina and forms a black jelly like clot which you may notice later in the day when you go to the toilet. The clot should not be bigger than your middle finger. It is not always passed as a small clot and may be partially reabsorbed so you may be unaware it is in place. It should not cause you any discomfort.



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If you are worried that the bleeding is heavier than a period please do not hesitate to telephone -:

Colposcopy Unit (University Hospital) 024 7696 7222

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm **or**

Gynaecological emergency admissions (University Hospital) 024 7696 7007

Open 24 hours a day.

If you had this procedure performed at Rugby St Cross hospital and you have concerns please phone either of the above telephone numbers for advice.

If you need to discuss your treatment or condition further please do not hesitate to phone Sister Lynn Connor (Clinical Specialist Nurse) on **024 7696 7222**. If there is no answer, please leave a short message and your telephone number on the answering machine and Lynn will return your call as soon as she is available.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7222 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

Document History

Department:	Gynaecology
Contact:	2722
Updated:	June 2022
Review:	June 2024
Version:	6.2
Reference:	HIC/LFT/430/08