

# Colposcopy Procedure; Loop Diathermy of the Cervix (LLETZ)

Gynaecology

## 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.

## Are there any risks to this procedure?

Complications are very rare, but may include 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.

You may get an infection in the area from where we took the tissue. If this happens, you may need to take antibiotics.

## What are the 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

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 GP or the Colposcopy Clinic for advice, as you may need another examination or antibiotics.

## What are the 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.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## When can I return 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 a follow-up cervical screening test after six months, to check if the treatment has been successful. It is very important that you have this test.

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.

## 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.

## Who do I contact for more information?

If you have any more questions about your treatment, phone our clinic on: 01902 695157 (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5pm).

Contact names:

Julie Davies (Nurse colposcopist)

Lesley Taylor (Nurse colposcopist)

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਰੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。