

Further information

If you have any queries, please contact the **Colposcopy Clinic** on

020 7288 5118

Nurses' Line: 020 7288 3138. Please leave a message and we will response within 24-48 hrs (weekdays)

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Thermal Coagulation Treatment

A patient's guide



What is Thermal Coagulation?

Thermal coagulation is an easy and safe treatment for cervical problems of an ectropion/ectopy that is causing persistent vaginal discharge or bleeding after sex.

It is also a very good treatment when there are persistent low grade cervical screening results or for high-grade changes when all the area is fully visible on the outer part of the cervix.

Thermal coagulation may be associated with a mild cramping sensation. It can be done in a short time and will not interfere with other activities such as work or school, later in the day.

There is little chance of heavy bleeding or other complications afterwards.

The procedure

No special preparation is necessary for thermal coagulation except that it should not be performed during the heavier days of the menstrual period. As already mentioned, some cramping may be felt, so taking simple analgesia (pain killers) like ibuprofen or paracetamol beforehand is advisable.

You may wish to be accompanied during the procedure by your partner or a close friend.

Once you are on the examination couch, a speculum is inserted for the cervix to be visualised. The colposcopist then applies a small, heated metal disc to the cervix. The probe is usually applied for 20-30 seconds. This may need to be repeated depending on the size of the area being treated. During this time, you may experience a period-like pain.

Although we do also offer a local anaesthetic, most patients tolerate thermal coagulation well without the need for it. This will be discussed with you prior to starting the procedure.

After Thermal coagulation

You are likely to experience a heavy discharge for about 4 weeks after the procedure, which can be blood stained at times, but this should improve as the area heals.

We advise that:

- You DO NOT use internal sanitary protection (i.e., tampons) until after your next period.
- You DO NOT have intercourse for four weeks.
- You DO NOT go swimming for four weeks.

Infection following treatment is rare. However, if you have any symptoms, a fever or an offensive smelly discharge, you may need to see your GP for a prescription of antibiotics.