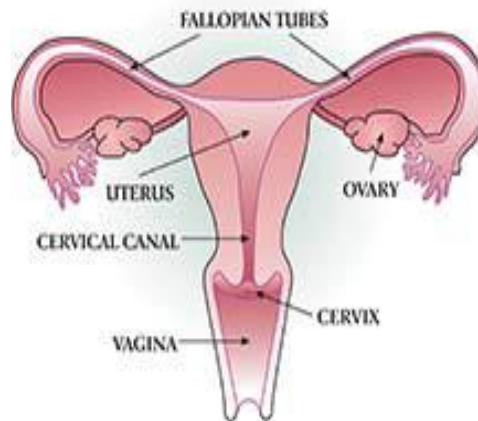


Outpatients Colposcopy

Patient information leaflet

What is a Colposcopy?

- A colposcopy is when a Doctor checks the lower section on your uterus, an area called the cervix.
- They will use an instrument called a colposcope to look at the cervix.
- If needed, they will also take a biopsy. A biopsy is when the Doctor takes a small piece of tissue from your body to look at under a microscope after the appointment.



- We know that having this examination can be worrying. Most people will not have cancer, but this is an important way to check if there are abnormal cells that might need removing.
- **Translated information about having a colposcopy is available via this link:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-colposcopy>

Why am I having a Colposcopy?

You are having a Colposcopy because when you had your cervical screening test (smear test) we found one of the below:

- Abnormal cells and the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV).
- HPV that has stayed in your body for a long time and not cleared up.
- Several screening tests did not provide a clear cell sample.
- During the screening test the doctor thought your cervix did not look as healthy as it should.

Your appointment checklist



Call the clinic on 020 7288 3138 to speak to a Colposcopy Nurse or if you would like to request a female Nurse or Doctor.



You can still have a colposcopy if you are on your period. If it is heavy or you want to rearrange your appointment, please call us on 020 7288 3118.



Do not have sex, use vaginal medications, lubricants or creams for at least 24 hours before your appointment.



Bring a panty liner to the appointment. It is normal to experience a small amount of bleeding or discharge after the colposcopy.



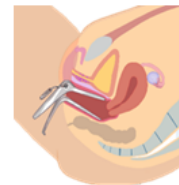
You can bring a friend, partner or family member with you to support you before and after the procedure.

During your appointment

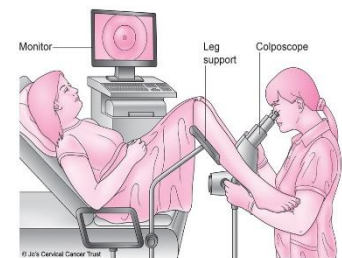
1 The colposcopy examination takes around 10 to 20 minutes.



2 The clinician will put a speculum in your vagina and gently open it.



3 A colposcope is used to look in your cervix. It stays outside your body the whole time. It sends an image of your cervix onto a screen.



4 The clinician will dab different liquids onto your cervix to help find abnormal cells.

5 A small tissue sample (biopsy) may be taken.



6 If you feel any pain, tell the Doctor so they can try to make it more comfortable for you.

After your appointment



If you experience more bleeding than you would during a heavy period, unpleasant smelly discharge, or stomach pain that keeps coming back despite taking painkillers, contact a GP or call 111.



Immediately after the procedure...

- You can go back to your normal activities.
- It's normal to have mild period-like pain for a few days.
- It's also normal to have light bleeding or brown discharge.



If you had a biopsy, for 10 days after your appointment or until symptoms are settled...

- Do not have sex or use tampons
- Do not use any vaginal medications, lubricants or creams.

Results

- **Normal:** your cervix looks healthy, and you have a low risk of developing cervical cancer before your next cervical screening test (smear test).
- **Abnormal:** having abnormal cells is not cancer but can become cancer:

Result	Risk	Information and Treatment
Grade 1 CIN1	Low	CIN stands to cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Most people will not need treatment. You will be offered follow up testing in 12 months.
Grade 2 CIN2	Medium	You may be offered a follow-up colposcopy or treatment to remove the abnormal cells depending on your needs.
Grade 3 CIN3	High	Grade 3 has the highest risk of turning into cancer and is therefore important to remove. The most common way to remove abnormal cells is through a procedure called LLETZ (Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone). This may be done at the same time as your colposcopy.
CGIN	Low or High Grade	CGIN stands for cervical glandular intraepithelial neoplasia. You will usually be offered treatment for CGIN because the glandular cells cannot be seen or monitored easily: treatment will likely be LLETZ.

- **Cancer:** in very rare cases, the colposcopy finds that a patient has cancer. If this is the case, you will be referred to and receive care and treatment from a specialist team.

Contact our service

Colposcopy clinic: 020 7288 3138.

Contact our Trust

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern, please contact our Patient advice and liaison service (PALS) 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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