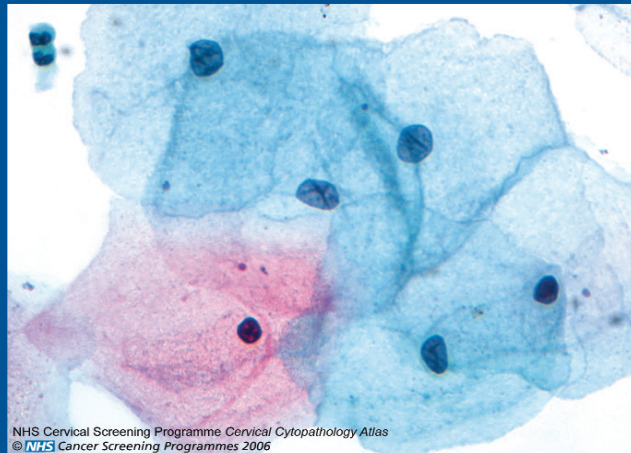


Treatment

1. Not all cell changes need treatment as they may disappear on their own.
2. Your doctor or nurse will explain any treatment that they may recommend.
3. Sometimes treatments to remove abnormal cells can be done during your appointment.
4. Sometimes treatment is given at a follow-up appointment.



Other Stuff

1. Please let us know if you wish to be seen by a female doctor or nurse. We will try to arrange it for you.
2. If you are having your period, you may still have the examination. If you prefer, you may change your appointment.
3. The colposcopy examination only takes 10-15 minutes but allow one hour for your appointment.
4. Treatment has little or no effect on your chances of getting pregnant nor on your risk of having a miscarriage.

The Facts

1. One in ten smear tests are abnormal.
2. Colposcopy examinations are very common.
3. It is very rare for abnormal cells to be cancer.

More Info

If you would like more information about your colposcopy appointment, please speak to your GP or visit:

www.whittington.nhs.uk

www.royalfree.nhs.uk

www.uclh.nhs.uk



Camden Primary Care Trust
Islington Primary Care Trust

Colposcopy

What you need to know if you have been asked to go for a colposcopy

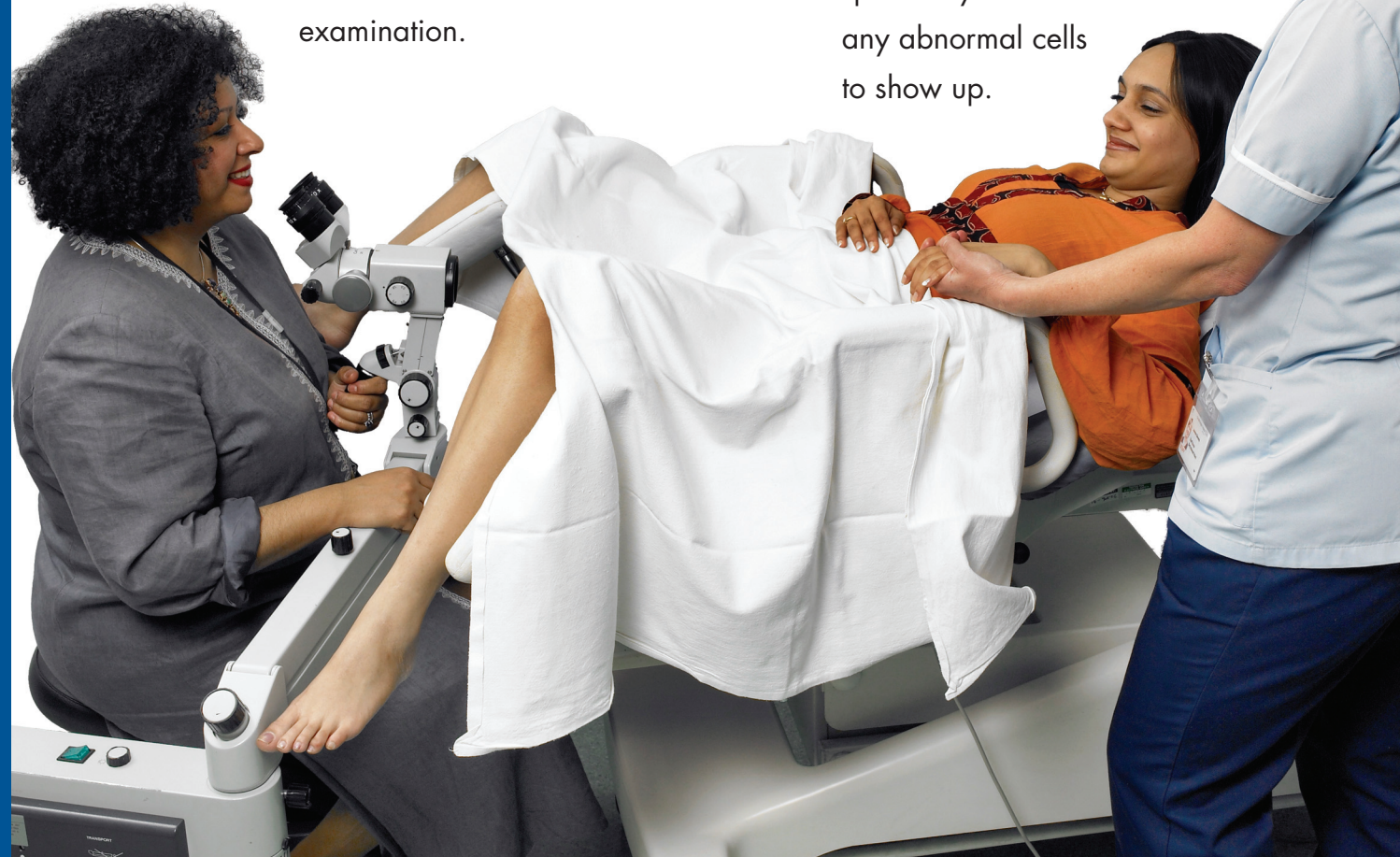


Don't Panic

1. You have been asked to have a colposcopy because you have had an abnormal smear result.
2. This **does not** mean you have cervical cancer.
3. A colposcopy is another screening test which is simple and quick.
4. It allows a doctor or nurse to have a closer look at the cervix (neck of the womb) with a bright light magnification using a colposcope.
5. The colposcope **does not** go inside you. It is just like a pair of large binoculars.
6. It should not be painful or any more uncomfortable than having a smear test.
7. If abnormal cells are found, then treatment can be given. This is nearly always 100% effective in preventing cervical cancer.

The Procedure

1. Your doctor or nurse will ask a few questions and explain your smear test result.
2. You will be asked to remove the clothes below your waist. You may wish to wear a full skirt or dress to avoid removing all your lower clothing during the examination.



3. You will be asked to lie down on a special couch.
4. A female assistant will be with you at all times.
5. A speculum will be put into your vagina, like having a smear test.
6. The doctor or nurse will then examine your cervix using the colposcope. They will apply a special dye to allow any abnormal cells to show up.

Biopsy

1. Sometimes a very small piece of tissue may be taken from the surface of the cervix. This is called a biopsy.
2. You may have some slight bleeding for a few days. You may need to use a small sanitary towel.
3. You should not have sex for 2-3 days to allow yourself to heal.
4. The doctor or nurse will explain how you will be given the results of your biopsy.