

Patient information

Cervical cautery

The cervix is also known as the neck of a woman's uterus (womb).

Cervical cautery is the treatment used for a cervical '**Ectropion**'.

This means the normal delicate cells that line the neck of the womb, are sitting on the outer surface of the cervix. It is a normal process of the cervix however if the tissue is irritated or inflamed, symptoms may occur such as bleeding after sexual intercourse or bleeding between periods. For this reason the Ectropion is cauterized (burnt away) under general anaesthetic.

Following your surgery:

- You may experience some mild to moderate pain, which can be relieved by taking painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen or other similar pain-relieving medication.
- You will experience some vaginal bleeding and discharge for 4 - 6 weeks after the operation. This may become heavier approximately 10 days after the operation, when the burnt area of the cervix comes away and the area begins to heal.
- To reduce the risk of infection, please use sanitary towels or panty liners, **not tampons** until your next period. These should be changed regularly.
- Do not have sexual intercourse until a week after the bleeding has stopped, this is to allow healing to take place.
- No heavy lifting or physical exercise for at least one week, as this may cause bleeding to become heavier.
- You may be asked to use an antibiotic cream in the vagina - please use as directed.

- Avoid swimming until a week after all bleeding has stopped.

Special instructions

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Outpatients appointment

Return to work.....

Contact your GP or GP out-of-hours service if:

- Vaginal bleeding increases to more than what you would consider to be a heavy period
- The blood loss contains large clots of blood
- You develop a smelly and / or offensive vaginal discharge
- You experience severe pain

If you require any further advice please contact the Martin Corke Day Surgery Unit on 01284 713050 between 7.45am and 8.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Outside of these hours contact the obstetric/gynaecology ward F10 on 01284 713235 / 713236. Please have your hospital number on the discharge letter available.

Or contact NHS 111

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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