

Patient information

Diathermy treatment to the cervix

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Diathermy treatment of the cervix (also known as cervical cauterization) involves removing the top layers of cells from the cervix using a heated ball-tipped probe. This treatment allows healthy, tougher cells to grow back, and these new cells are less likely to cause symptoms of bleeding during or after intercourse.

This treatment is an out-patient procedure using local anaesthetic which takes about 5 - 10 minutes. All aspects of your treatment and follow-up will be discussed with you before your treatment.

Following your treatment

The local anaesthetic will wear off after several hours, so it is advisable to take some painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen when you get home. You may have some discomfort similar to period pains for the remainder of the day - this is quite normal.

Following treatment there is often some watery vaginal discharge which may be bloodstained and may become darker in colour. This can last between 2-4 weeks.

You should avoid using tampons for 2 - 4 weeks following your treatment.

You need to use pads (or sanitary towels) rather than tampons while you have the discharge.

If the discharge becomes offensive, causes irritation or soreness, please contact your GP for advice.

Sexual activity

You should avoid sexual intercourse for 2-4 weeks after treatment. This is to reduce the risk of infection while the cervix is healing.

Driving

Patients can drive following treatment unless advised otherwise.

Work / exercise

- Following your treatment, normal activities including light exercise may continue.
- It is recommended that you avoid swimming for two weeks after treatment.
- You may continue to shower or bathe as usual.
- You may consume alcohol in moderation after treatment.

Travel

Although there are no known health grounds for avoiding travel after this treatment, any overseas medical attention for complications arising from the treatment may not be covered by your health insurance. If in doubt, please check with your insurance before you travel.

Follow-up

The colposcopist who carries out your treatment will advise you on further follow-up.

Who to contact for advice

If you have any questions or concerns about your treatment, please feel free to contact the colposcopy nursing staff on: 01284 713601. Out of hours, please contact your GP.

Links: www.bsccp.org.uk

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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