

## Patient information

# Advice leaflet for women before Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone (LLETZ)

A large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ) is the treatment we carry out on the cervix for pre-cancerous changes that are unlikely to go away on their own.

When you attend the clinic you will need to check in at the self check in kiosk. Please check all your details are correct, if they have changed please inform a member of the reception staff. This is important, as we will be writing to you and your GP with the results of your visit.

When we call you in, the clinic nurse, will introduce herself to you, ask you to confirm your details and tell you the name of the Colposcopist you are going to see.

### Your consultation

The Colposcopist will introduce their self to you and explain what is going to happen during your consultation.

Firstly we will need to ask a few questions and take a history of any symptoms you may have.

We will then explain the possible reasons for the changes on your cervix and how the changes can be treated and why.

You will need to consent to having the procedure carried out. The Colposcopist will explain the consent form to you and what everything means.

You will be given an opportunity to ask questions at this point.

## Treatment

The clinic nurse will then show you where you can get ready and you can use the toilet if you need to.

When you are ready the Colposcopist will explain how to lie on the couch.

Once you are as comfortable as possible a speculum is put into the vagina (just like when you have a smear). Some liquid called acetic acid (a vinegary solution) is washed over the cervix. This solution makes any changes appear as a white colour, there may be certain patterns within these areas, which will indicate to the Colposcopist what the changes are. These changes will then be explained to you.

Another solution called iodine is then applied to the cervix; this solution will highlight the size of the area that needs to be treated.

Local anaesthetic is injected into the cervix to numb the area to be treated. This sometimes stings a little, just for a few seconds.

A small wire loop is used to remove the changes seen on the cervix. The loop is heated by an electrical current, which allows us to cut this area away. An electrode pad (sticky pad) will be stuck to your leg for safety purposes.

Once the area is removed, diathermy (a heat treatment) is used to stop any bleeding. Occasionally a medicated tampon might be inserted to stop minor bleeding and this would need to be removed after 2 hours.

You should avoid using tampons for four to six weeks following your treatment.

You will be asked to sit up and see how you feel. If you feel ok, you can get dressed.

We will write to you with your results, it is usually 4 weeks before you hear from us.

You will be given a post-procedure leaflet, which will explain after care and what to do after your discharge and the nurse will answer any other questions you have.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or problems.

Colposcopy Nursing staff                      01284 713601

Appointments/secretary                      01284 712702      An answerphone is available

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              [www.iostrust.org.uk](http://www.iostrust.org.uk)