

## Patient information

# Referrals to the gynae - colposcopy clinic

You have been referred to the gynae - colposcopy clinic because you have:

- difficulty obtaining a smear at your GP surgery
- a cervical polyp
- post coital bleeding (PCB), bleeding after sexual intercourse
- clinical abnormality of your cervix requiring further investigations

## What can I expect to happen at my appointment?

This will depend on the reason for your referral, but it may include some of the following investigations:

- Consultation: This will be with a consultant gynaecologist (who is also a trained colposcopist).
- Colposcopy examination: Colposcopy means looking at the cervix with a colposcope (microscope). This allows us to see your cervix close up so we can identify any changes. This involves inserting a speculum (similar to when you have a smear). Once the cervix can be seen we apply some vinegary solution (Acetic Acid), and this will highlight any changes and a biopsy may be taken.
- Cervical biopsy (punch biopsy): A small piece of tissue is taken from your cervix. Local anaesthetic is not usually needed. The procedure generally causes little discomfort, but this can vary depending on each individual.
- Cervical cytology (smear test): A speculum is inserted so that the cervix can be seen. A cervical smear brush is used to take the smear sample.

- Removal of cervical polyp: Removal will depend on the size and type of polyp, but usually if the polyp is small it can be removed by using polyp forceps. If the polyp is larger or more difficult to remove, local anaesthetic is injected and the polyp removed using a wire loop in the clinic.
- You may have swabs taken to see if you have an infection.

## General advice

- We aim to have two nurses for each clinic, one to assist the doctor and one to provide you with support and reassurance.
- You may experience some bleeding after a biopsy; sanitary towels are provided, or you may prefer to bring your own. Tampons should be avoided for four weeks following a biopsy.
- Following a biopsy we would recommend you arrange to have the rest of the day off work.
- Further specific information and advice leaflets on punch biopsy/polypectomy (removal of polyp) are available in the clinic and on the hospital website ([www.wsh.nhs.uk](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk)); follow the quick link to Patient Information Leaflets.

## If you have any further questions or queries please contact:

Colposcopy Nursing staff on 01284 713601 an answer phone is available.

Links: [www.bsccp.org.uk](http://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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