

COLPOSCOPY

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT **920.729.7105** IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS A COLPOSCOPY?

A colposcopy is a procedure commonly performed to evaluate abnormal cells on the cervix identified through a pap smear. This procedure uses a special microscope called a colposcope to examine the cervix and genital tract. During this examination a small amount of tissue is taken from the cervix. This tissue is studied to determine the degree of abnormality and/or the presence of cancer in the cervix.

HOW IS IT DONE?

This procedure is done in the doctor's office. As with a pelvic exam, you will lie on your back with your feet raised and placed on foot rests for support. A speculum will be used to spread the vaginal walls so the inside of the vagina and cervix can be visualized. The colposcope is placed just outside the entrance of your vagina. A solution to highlight abnormal cells will be applied to the cervix with a cotton swab.

A special device is used to remove a small piece of any tissue that appears to be abnormal. This tissue is sent for further evaluation. When the results come back from the lab you will be notified. If you need further testing or treatment, it will be discussed at that time.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

To prepare for this procedure we recommend you take 600-800 mg of Motrin (ibuprofen) about 30 minutes before your appointment time, as you may experience some cramping or discomfort from the scraping or biopsy.

It is best to have this procedure when you are **NOT** having your period. Also for the most accurate results do not douche, use tampons or vaginal medications or have sex for at least 24 hours before the procedure.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY COLPOSCOPY?

After the colposcopy, you may feel some cramps and have some soreness in the vaginal area for 2-3 days. You may have some mild vaginal bleeding. A special thick paste may be applied to your cervix to stop any bleeding. Over the next several days you may experience a discharge from this paste along with some bleeding. The discharge may be described as "coffee grounds" in appearance. This is normal and will subside within a week of the procedure.

Although the incidence is very low, as with any medical procedure there are risks involved in the colposcopy, including:

- Infection of the genital tract
- Allergic reaction to numbing medication
- Dizziness or passing out during or just after the procedure

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