

## PUNCH BIOPSY OF THE CERVIX

A cervical biopsy is a procedure performed to remove tissue from the cervix to test for abnormal or precancerous conditions or cervical cancer. Sometimes a number of punch biopsies may be performed on different areas of the cervix.

The tissue sample that is removed from the abnormal area on your cervix will be sent to the laboratory for further examination. The result of the biopsy will show if further treatment is needed. You will receive a letter from your consultant or nurse colposcopist within four weeks giving you this information.

The term used to refer to cell changes, confirmed by a biopsy is cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, more commonly known as CIN. In order to make distinctions between the various states of change, doctors have developed a scale from 1-3 according to how many of the cells are affected:

- CIN 1 means that only a third of the cells in the affected area are abnormal. These may be left to return to normal or may be treated, depending on your doctor's opinion
- CIN 2 means that up to two-thirds of the cells in the affected area are abnormal. Treatment will usually be needed to return the cells to normal
- CIN 3 means that all the cells in the affected area are abnormal. Treatment will be needed to return the cells to normal.

The biopsy taken today has left a small raw area on the cervix. It is quite normal to:

- have some slight bleeding or discharge for a few days
- notice a scab come away.

To reduce the risk of infection and to prevent excessive bleeding, we suggest that you take the following precautions until any discharge has stopped, which is usually within seven to 10 days:

- avoid intercourse
- use sanitary pads rather than tampons
- shower instead of having a bath
- avoid swimming and spa pools
- do not put anything in the vagina.

Once the discharge has stopped, you can resume normal activity.

Any discomfort you experience while having the colposcopy, will soon disappear but if it continues, you can take mild painkillers, such as paracetamol. You may bath or shower as normal.

**NB:** Do not take more than eight paracetamol in a 24 hour period.

If you have any concerns about the biopsy or require further advice, please contact the outpatient clinics:

**Doncaster Royal Infirmary:**

Ward G5 01302 553163

Gynaecology OutPatient Clinic 01302 381361

**Bassetlaw Hospital:**

Gynaecology OutPatient Clinic 01909 500990

**Montagu Hospital:**

Rockingham Ward 01709 321107

Gynaecology OutPatient Clinic 01709 321113