

Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone

Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

This information leaflet answers some of the questions you may have about having a Large Loop Excision of the Transformation zone (LLETZ).

Why do I need this procedure?

This treatment is for removing pre-cancerous cells on your cervix. You have had an abnormal HPV Screening "smear" test result or colposcopy result, showing that these cells are on your cervix. If left untreated, they have the potential to turn into cancer.

What happens during the procedure?

A speculum is inserted into the vagina so that the cervix is visible, similar to when you had your HPV screening test. The clinician will then examine your cervix using a special microscope, known as a colposcope. Solutions are dabbed onto the cervix.

This helps to identify the area that needs to be removed. Following this, local anesthetic will be applied to your cervix. Once your cervix is numb, a thin wire loop is used to remove the abnormal tissue and the wound is then sealed. A nurse will be with you at all times.

What should I expect after the procedure?

It is normal to have some blood-stained/watery discharge from your vagina for up to 4 weeks. This is part of the healing process. Therefore, if you are due to go on holiday within 4 weeks of your treatment, please inform the clinician or nursing staff. The procedure should not be painful but may cause mild discomfort, similar to period-like cramps. Basic painkillers such as Paracetamol can be used if required.

Do not use tampons, have sexual intercourse, go swimming or use a Jacuzzi for 4 weeks after the procedure. You should be able to return to work and resume normal activities the day after the procedure.

Are there any risks to this procedure?

Complications are rare but you may get an infection in the area that was treated. If you notice heavy bleeding, discharge that smells unpleasant, a fever, or ongoing lower abdominal pain you may have an infection. Please speak to your GP or colposcopy clinic for advice as you may need antibiotics.

There is a slightly increased risk of premature birth in future pregnancies, however this is mostly associated with repeated treatments, or when a large portion of tissue is removed. If you are pregnant in the future, please let your midwife or Obstetrician know that you have had a treatment to your cervix and they will arrange any investigations they think are necessary.

If you have a problem or concerns or require further advice, please contact us on:

Doncaster Royal Infirmary:

Gynaecology Outpatient Clinic 01302 642808

Ward G5 01302 642650

Bassetlaw Hospital:

Gynaecology Outpatient Clinic 01909 572214

ESSU: 01909 572254.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns, complaints or questions you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net