



Northumbria Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Loop Biopsy Treatment

Issued by Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to give information and explain about the treatment known as Loop Biopsy of the Cervix.

The leaflet also describes what you can expect when you come for the loop biopsy and what will happen after the treatment.

Loop Biopsy Treatment

Loop biopsy of the cervix is the recommended treatment option to remove Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN or Precancerous changes) from the cervix.

It is a simple procedure carried out in the Colposcopy Clinic. After the speculum has been inserted into your vagina and your cervix has been examined through the microscope, local anaesthetic will be injected into your cervix.

After the local anaesthetic, you may have the feeling of something touching your cervix but it should not be painful.

A small heated wire loop is then used to remove the abnormal area from your cervix. Then a small heated ball is used to stop any bleeding from the area that has been treated.

The Benefit of Loop Biopsy of the Cervix

The benefit of a loop biopsy of cervix is to remove pre-cancerous changes from the cervix at an early stage, as they have the potential to develop into cancer if they are not removed.

Alternative options

Other treatment options include laser to cervix, cold coagulation and cryotherapy. These treatments are termed 'ablative' and therefore do not provide a specimen for histological examination.

What should I expect after the treatment?

If you do have any pain or discomfort in the few hours after treatment we recommend a simple pain killer such as Paracetamol or Ibuprofen. You will probably have some vaginal bleeding or discharge for about four weeks after treatment.

For the first four weeks or until the bleeding or discharge settles (whichever is longer), we recommend that you use sanitary towels rather than tampons, avoid swimming and heavy exercise and above all **DO NOT** have sexual intercourse. Your next period may be different. It may be early, prolonged, heavier than normal or occasionally missed entirely.

Risks following a Loop Biopsy

Risks and complications after a Loop Biopsy are rare, but can occur.

Infection: If an infection is present your vaginal discharge may become offensive (a bad smell) or heavy, and may or may not be associated with abdominal pain or a high temperature.

Haemorrhage: Haemorrhage or very heavy bleeding may also occur. This can happen within 24 hours or about 10-14 days after the Loop Biopsy is performed.

Both infection and haemorrhage are very easily treated, so if you have any concerns you should contact the Colposcopy Clinic where you had your treatment for advice.

Rare Complications

There exists, two very rare complications following a loop biopsy of the cervix.

Cervical Incompetence: This is the term we use when the cervix is weak and cannot stay closed during pregnancy, leading to pre-term labour. It is slightly more common in women who have had treatment, although it can occur in women with no history of abnormal cervical samples (smears) or cervical treatment. There is no evidence that the procedure will make it harder for you to become pregnant.

Cervical Stenosis: Cervical stenosis means that the opening to the birth canal has become blocked during the healing process. This tends to happen more frequently in the older woman and if it is causing problems it is very easily corrected.

Follow Up

We will advise you by letter the result of your loop biopsy. You will need to go to your GP surgery for a cervical sample six months after treatment.

Recent research has shown that a test for HPV on your cervical sample can reduce the number of cervical samples you need after treatment.

This test will be performed on your first cervical sample and if the result is negative then you will not need to have another cervical sample for 3 years (women over the age of 50 will be called for this cervical sample at 3 years, rather than 5 years).

If the HPV test result is positive you will be seen again in the colposcopy clinic.

Useful contacts

Please contact the Nurse Colposcopist or the Colposcopy Secretary where you receive your treatment:

North Tyneside General Hospital (0191) 293 2501

**Wansbeck and Hexham General Hospitals
and Berwick Infirmary** (01670) 564145

Sources of information

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

www.bsccp.org.uk

Alternative Formats

If you would like a copy of this information in large print, another language, audio tape or other format please call the Contact Centre on 03 44 811 8118.

Other sources of information

NHS 111

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

www.nice.org.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Freephone: 0800 032 0202

Text: 07815 500015

Email: northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk

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General Enquiries 03 44 811 8111

www.northumbria.nhs.uk



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