

Colposcopy—A Simple, Safe Procedure

What is colposcopy?

Colposcopy is like having a Pap smear done, except that a special microscope (called a colposcope) is used to take a closer look at your cervix (the lower part of your womb).

Beforehand, a special “vinegar” solution will be put on your cervix. This turns any abnormal cells white, so that they can be easily seen through the colposcope. Often, a tiny piece of tissue (biopsy) is taken at the same time.

Colposcopy is usually done in a special clinic, although it may also be performed in your doctor’s office.

Why am I having colposcopy?

Colposcopy is often done after an abnormal Pap result. It will help your doctor find the reason for the abnormal result, and detect any problems at a very early stage.

Is it painful?

Usually, there is very little or no discomfort. You may feel mild cramping and pinching when the tiny piece of tissue is removed.

Is it safe?

Generally, colposcopy is a very safe procedure. Bleeding and infection are possible following the procedure, but they are very rare. You may have discharge or spotting for a couple of days afterwards.

Colposcopy does not, in any way, affect your ability to get pregnant and have children.

**If you have other questions or concerns,
talk to your doctor or to the staff at the colposcopy clinic.
Colposcopy is simple, safe and virtually painfree.
It’s also an important way to detect any problems at a very early stage!**

Adapted from “Colposcopy.” Colposcopy Unit, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. For full text, go to www.colposcopy.com



FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS SHEET

