

Colposcopy Department

Following a cervical biopsy

Information for patients

Introduction

During your examination today the clinician took a small biopsy sample (a piece of tissue the size of a grain of rice) from your cervix for laboratory tests. The biopsy result will help with the diagnosing of abnormal cells and the planning of your care management.

You may experience the following symptoms over the next 2-3 days:

- Blood-stained discharge
- A brown/yellow vaginal discharge - this is from the lotions and dyes (iodine) we apply to your cervix.
- Brown, black specks in your vaginal discharge from the paste used to seal the biopsy site
- Pain similar to a period – you can take simple pain killers to help ease this

During the next 2-3 days if you are experiencing any bleeding use a panty liner or pad, do not use a tampon.

Do not have sexual intercourse for 2-3 days, or if you are still experiencing a blood-stained discharge.

You may return to work on the same day as your examination and also bath and shower as normal. You can also exercise but avoid swimming if you have any bleeding.

If you notice that your vaginal discharge becomes very smelly/offensive, please contact the clinic or your GP for advice as this may be a sign of infection - colposcopy nurse specialist telephone: 020 3 312 1365, or email Colposcopyadvice.imperial@nhs.net

Details of your results and next appointment (if required) will be forwarded to you and your GP by post; this normally takes between 2-6 weeks.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 6666** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at pals@imperial.nhs.uk. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in **writing** to:

Complaints department
Fourth floor
Salton House
St Mary's Hospital
Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.

We have a free and premium wi-fi service at each of our five hospitals. For further information please visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

Gynaecology

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