

Colposcopy

Colposcopy is a procedure used to examine the cervix, vagina and vulva tissues through a special magnifying device called a colposcope.

Colposcopy is done when a Pap test result shows abnormal changes in the cells of the cervix.

- ❖ The Colposcope shines a light onto the vagina and cervix and
- ❖ enlarges the normal view by 2 to 60 times.
- ❖ This exam allows the doctor to find problems that cannot be seen by the eye alone.
- ❖ Colposcopy enables the doctor to find about more about the abnormal cells and assess other problems, including
 - Genital warts on the cervix
 - Cervicitis (an inflamed cervix)
 - Benign (not cancerous) growths, such as polyps
 - Bleeding

About the procedure

- ❖ Colposcopy is done in our office
- ❖ The procedure should be scheduled when you are NOT having your period.
- ❖ For at least 24 hours before the test, you should not:
 - Douche
 - Use tampons
 - Use vaginal medications
 - Have sex
- ❖ Sometimes a Colposcopy may need to be done more than once.
- ❖ It also can be used to check the results of a treatment.

What Happens During Colposcopy

- As with a pelvic exam, you will lie on your back with your feet placed in the stirrups for support
- A speculum will be used to hold apart the vaginal walls

- the colposcope will be placed just outside the opening of your vagina.
- A mild solution will be applied to your cervix and vagina with a cotton swab to make abnormal areas on the cervix easier to see.
- You may feel a slight burning.

A Biopsy During Colposcopy

If your doctor sees areas of abnormal cells or areas, he or she may take tissue samples for biopsy.

- When the biopsy results come back from the lab, your doctor will discuss them with you.
- Depending on the results, you may need to be checked more often, or you may need further testing or treatments.

Recovery

- If you have a colposcopy *without a biopsy*, you should feel fine right away.
- You can do the things you normally do, though you may have some spotting for a few days.
- If you have a colposcopy *with a biopsy*, you may have some discomfort for 1 or 2 days
- you may have some vaginal bleeding.
- You may also have a dark discharge resulting from the medication used to help stop bleeding at the biopsy site. If so, wear a sanitary pad until the discharge stops.

Your doctor may suggest you limit your activity for a brief time. While the cervix heals, you should not put anything into your vagina:

- Do not have sex
- Do not use tampons
- Do not douche

Call your doctor right away if you have any of these problems:

- Heavy vaginal bleeding (using more than one sanitary pad per hour)
- Severe lower abdominal pain
- Fever