

Cryocautery to the cervix

This leaflet will explain the benefits of a cryocautery and what to expect during and after the procedure.

What is Cryocautery?

This procedure uses freezing to destroy the superficial layer of cells on the cervix (neck of the womb).

What are the benefits of having Cryocautery?

Freezing the superficial layer of cells on cervix promotes the growth of tougher, thicker tissue. In doing so, the treatment reduces excessive vaginal discharge or bleeding from the cervix (such as after sexual intercourse).

How is it performed?

Cryocautery is performed in an outpatient clinic. A speculum is inserted into the vagina so that the cervix is visible, similar to when you have a HPV screening “smear” test. A small probe is placed on the cervix for under 2 minutes. Anaesthetic is not required for cryocautery.

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.

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 normal healing process. Therefore, if you are due to go on holiday within 4 weeks of your treatment, please inform the clinician or nursing staff.

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 other normal activities the day after the procedure.

Are there any risks to this procedure?

Complications are very 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.

If you have a problem, 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
Ward B6 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