

Cervical Punch Biopsy



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

What is a cervical punch biopsy?

A cervical punch biopsy is when a small piece of tissue (few millimetres) is taken from the cervix (neck of womb).

Why did I have a biopsy taken?

Your colposcopy examination showed an area on your cervix where there may be some changes. Sometimes a number of punch biopsies may be performed on different areas of the cervix. The biopsy will be sent to the laboratory to be reviewed. The results will tell us if there is an abnormality present. This will guide us in deciding on the most appropriate management option for you.

The terms used to refer to cell changes, confirmed by a biopsy is cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, more commonly known as CIN. In order to make distinctions between the various states of change, doctors have developed a scale from 1-3 according to how the cells are affected. This result will guide us in your management plan.

When will my results be available?

In approximately 4-6 weeks. We will write to you and your G.P. with your results. This letter will also inform you of the decision made in regards to your follow up within the Colposcopy Clinic.

What should I expect following the biopsy?

You can expect a slight blood-stained discharge, possibly streaked with grey/black, to last for a few days. This is entirely normal and due to the silver nitrate or other chemicals used to stop any bleeding. It should clear by itself.



What do I need to do after I go home?

Use sanitary towels, not tampons, for the bleeding / discharge. This is to allow the area to heal and to reduce the risk of infection.

Avoid sexual intercourse, swimming, strenuous exercise, long baths for five days or longer until the bleeding/discharge has stopped again, to allow the area to heal and reduce the risk of infection.

You may find you experience “period type discomfort” immediately after the procedure or later on during the day. If necessary mild pain relief (such as paracetamol /ibuprofen) can be taken.

What risks or complications can occur?

Complications are very rare but can include:

- Infection from the biopsy site
- Excessive vaginal bleeding / discharge
- Lower abdominal pain
- Feeling unwell / raised temperature.

If you have a problem or concerns about the biopsy 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.

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059.

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net

Gynaecology
