

Your important health information

Colposcopy procedure information

A colposcopy is a magnified examination of the cervix, vagina and vulva.

The doctor places a speculum in your vagina. The speculum holds open the walls of your vagina so that your doctor can see your cervix. Your doctor positions the special magnifying instrument, called a colposcope, a few inches away from your vulva.

Colposcopy is usually done to investigate higher risk cervical screen test results. It can also be useful where there is an unexpected appearance to the cervix, vagina or vulva, or abnormal vaginal bleeding. It normally takes about 10 minutes. You will be able to ask the doctor questions before and after the colposcopy.

- On the day of the procedure please report to the Gynaecology Oncology department on level 6.
- Please eat a normal breakfast or lunch. There is no need to fast for this procedure.
- If you have your period on this day please phone the Oncology department on 8458 4860 to reschedule your appointment.

Following the colposcopy

- If a biopsy has been performed, do not have sexual intercourse or use tampons for 24-48 hours whilst the biopsy site heals. Use pads only for this time.
- Your discharge may be discoloured by solutions used at the colposcopy and is often a grey colour. Small amount of vaginal bleeding may persist for up to one week.
- You may experience mild menstrual-type pain for which simple pain relief should be adequate.
- If you are requiring further information please contact the gynaecology oncology nursing staff on 8458 4881.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact:

Mercy Hospital for Women

Gynae Oncology
Phone: 03 8458 4860

Acknowledgements

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