Colposcopy

A colposcopy is a test done to check your vagina and cervix for cells that are not normal. You may have a colposcopy if a pap smear shows cells that need to be checked further. The doctor uses a magnifying scope to check the tissue of the vagina and cervix. A small tissue sample, called a biopsy, may be removed to be checked in the lab.

Arrive on time for your test. The test takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Plan to be here about 2 hours.

To Prepare

- Do not schedule your test during your menstrual period if possible.
- Do not have vaginal intercourse, use tampons or douche 1 to 2 days before your test.
• Take an ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) tablet before going to your appointment. Do not use ibuprofen if you are pregnant.

**During the Test**

• You may wear a hospital gown.
• You are helped onto the exam table. Lie down on your back and put your feet in the stirrups.
• A metal speculum is placed in your vagina to hold the walls of your vagina open. This helps your doctor to see your cervix.
• Your cervix may be covered with a weak vinegar solution to make the cells that are not normal show up. This may tingle or sting.
• The doctor checks your vagina and cervix for cells that are not normal.
• If your doctor wants to take tissue samples from the cervix, you will feel some pain or strong cramps. This will go away in about 1 minute.
• Any bleeding is stopped with pressure and a chemical solution.

**Your Care at Home**

• Stay quiet and rest for 24 hours.
• Take ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) every 4 hours, if needed, for cramping or pain. Do not use ibuprofen if you are pregnant.
• If you had a biopsy, you may have a small amount of bloody vaginal discharge for a day. You may wear a pad.
• **Do not** have sexual intercourse, use tampons or douche until bleeding stops.
• You may take a shower. Do not take a tub bath for 3 days. This increases your chance for infection.
Call your doctor right away if you have:

- A large amount of bleeding where you soak a pad in an hour
- Severe abdominal cramps or pain
- Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C
- Vaginal discharge that has a strange odor

Follow Up

A follow up visit will be scheduled for you. At this appointment, your doctor will talk to you about your test results and discuss treatment if needed.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.