

Colposcopy Patient Instructions

You are having a procedure called colposcopy to evaluate your abnormal pap smear. This is a specialized look at your cervix under magnification to see what the pap smear is trying to tell us. Your physician will stain your cervix with vinegar, also known as acetic acid, in order to see the abnormal areas of your cervix better.

What the procedure will be like for you:

It will be like a prolonged pap smear, lasting about 10 minutes. The physician will put a speculum in your vagina, focus the colposcope (magnifying device) on your cervix, and swab the cervix with the vinegar. This will not hurt, but rarely patients feel a slight burning sensation. The physician then may ask you to cough or make a slight adjustment in your position for better visualization and to assist in getting a biopsy. Your physician will take one or more biopsies (tiny pinches of tissue) from your cervix. This usually is not very painful, with some patients feeling no pain and some experiencing a slight cramping sensation. The physician then will perform what we call an ECC, which is a scraping of the inner cervix a little more aggressive than the brush portion of the pap smear. Again, you may not feel this or you may have mild cramping.

At the conclusion of the procedure, your physician will place some medicine on your cervix to keep it from bleeding. This medicine is a tan color and liquid going in, however, it can mix with your own secretions and create a discharge for a couple of days that can be thick or thin; white, black, brown, or yellow in color; and in many small flakes or in larger clumps. Sometimes there is also light bleeding. You will be provided a sanitary pad or panty liner to wear if you haven't brought one with you.

After the procedure:

Your physician will discuss the findings with you and give you her impression of what is going on. You will then be allowed to get up. Some people feel faint or queasy after the procedure, so please let us know if you are having these symptoms. You will be allowed to drive yourself home after making a follow up appointment. For the first 48 hours after the procedure, you should avoid anything in your vagina. This includes having intercourse, using tampons, or douching.

When you should be alarmed and get immediate attention:

Call the office at 615-778-0010 should you have bleeding heavier than a period, unexplained fever, or a discharge that is extremely foul smelling or that looks like pus.

When and how you will receive your results:

Please be sure you leave your contact information with the front desk if you have not updated today. You can also register for our online patient portal at www.womensgroupfrankin.com, then click on Prime Patient. You will receive your results in 3 business days or less. Please call us if you have not received your results in 3 business days.