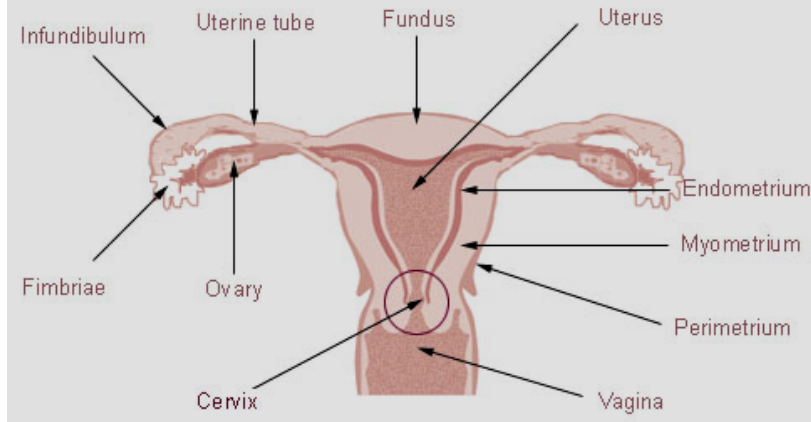


Uterus and Uterine tubes



Call your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Heavy vaginal bleeding that is more than your normal period.
- Pain in your lower stomach area that is not relieved by a mild pain medication (example -Tylenol)
- Fever, chills
- Foul smelling vaginal odor.

• If unable to contact your doctor, go to the nearest hospital emergency ward.

Follow up:

You will be told of follow up appointments if necessary at the completion of your procedure.

Revised 2010

Patient Handout Colposcopy

This pamphlet provides general information and is meant to add to discussions with your doctor or nurse

Colposcopy Clinic

Abbotsford Regional
Hospital

General Day Care

3rd floor Fraser Wing

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Printshop #262507



What is a Colposcopy?

A Colposcopy is when a doctor uses a microscope to magnify areas of your cervix or vagina to check for abnormality of the tissue that may be in question following a pap smear.

Will this test affect my ability to have children?

The test done will **not** affect your ability to have children and is safe to do if you are pregnant. Let the doctor know if you think you are pregnant.

Does this mean I have cancer?

One of the most frightening times in a woman's life is when the doctor calls and says her Pap smear results are abnormal. However, the majority of abnormal Pap smears are not cancer cells but rather abnormal cells that if not treated could lead to cancer.

What to expect in the clinic

After registration, you will change into a gown and be helped to an examination table. A nurse will assist the doctor throughout the procedure. As the procedure begins, the doctor will place a speculum into your vagina to hold it open.

Positioning your knees far apart will make your muscles relax and make it more comfortable when the doctor is inserting the speculum. Your cervix will be wiped with a vinegar solution to help visualize any irregular tissue. The Colposcope will then will be used to magnify this tissue. The colposcope does not come into contact with your body. A small sample (biopsy) the size of a match may be taken.

You may feel some mild pinching or cramps but nothing that will require freezing or medication.

What should I expect after a colposcopy?

You may expect a small amount of bleeding after your colposcopy. If a biopsy is taken, the doctor may insert a tampon to apply pressure to the biopsy area. If you are still bleeding after removal of the tampon, use what ever you would normally use when you have your period.