Advice following a Cervical Punch Biopsy

Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Women & Children’s Group

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your condition / procedure, and to answer some common queries that you may have.
Advice following a Cervical Punch Biopsy

During your examination tiny skin samples called a punch biopsy were taken from the surface of your cervix. This sample will be examined under a microscope in the laboratory. It will identify the degree of abnormality, which will enable us to discuss the most appropriate management option for you.

It is usual to experience a blood stained, watery discharge up to 2 weeks following a punch biopsy. It is advisable to wear a panty liner or pad and avoid using tampons.

We recommend that you refrain from sexual intercourse for 2 weeks to allow the biopsy site to heal and to reduce the risk of infection.

Do not swim for 2 weeks following this procedure. If you have heavy bleeding or a smelly discharge from your vagina up to 10 days after your visit and your period is not due, contact your own GP for advice.

Results – You will receive a letter within 2-4 weeks’ time informing you of your results and further management. Please note RESULTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN OVER THE TELEPHONE – but feel free to contact the secretary if you have not received the letter informing you of the results.

When we have the results of your biopsy we will let you and your GP know these by letter. The results may show that cells in your cervix have undergone certain changes, a condition known as cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia or CIN.

There are different stages of CIN and in order to differentiate a scale from 1 to 3 is used according to how many of the cells are affected.

Mild Abnormalities / CIN 1

This means that you have mild changes (only a third of the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

It is known that these mild changes often get better on their own without intervention. We normally monitor these mild conditions, until they return to normal.

Moderate Abnormalities / CIN 2

This means that you have moderate cell changes (two thirds of the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

Severe Abnormalities / CIN 3

This means you have severe cell changes (all the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

The NHS cervical screening programme recommends that women with moderate or severe abnormalities are offered treatment.

None of these changes mean that you have cancer, but if left untreated, CIN2 and CIN 3 could change to cancer over a long period of time.

If your biopsy results show that you need to have treatment, a follow-up appointment at the clinic will be sent to you.

Telephone Contacts

Colposcopy Secretary:
Grimsby 01472 874111 ext 1195
Scunthorpe / Goole 01724 290150

Nurse Colposcopist:
Lynda Farrow-Browne
01472 874111 ext 2820
07850299418
Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email: nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

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