

Advice following Cautery to the Cervix

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Women & Children's Services**

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



Information for patients and visitors

Advice following Cautery to the Cervix

The treatment you have had today is generally performed to reduce vaginal discharge and bleeding from an ectropion on the cervix. An ectropion or “erosion” is a normal occurrence when the delicate glandular (columnar) cells are exposed on the surface of the cervix. As the area heals a scab will form which will gradually heal leaving healthy tissue underneath.

Will it be painful afterwards?

Some women do have a slight abdominal discomfort for a few hours. This is like a period pain. You may need to take a mild painkiller such as paracetamol.

Will I bleed afterwards?

There are some small risks from a procedure like a vulval biopsy.

When will I get the result?

As the cervix heals, you will have a brown vaginal discharge and maybe some bleeding but this should be no heavier than a period. This can last from a few days up to 6 weeks. After 10 to 14 days it is not uncommon to get a period type bleed and this is caused by healing as the treatment “scab” comes away from the cervix.

Only use sanitary towels for protection. Do not use tampons for two months to reduce risk of infection.

If the discharge lasts more than six weeks or starts to smell offensive or the bleeding is heavier than a period, contact your GP or the Colposcopy Clinic as these symptoms might suggest infection.

How soon afterwards can I have sex?

While your cervix is healing, it is vulnerable to infection and damage. For this reason we advise you not to have sex for four weeks or until the discharge has stopped completely.

Do I need time off work?

No. You can carry out all your normal activities including work although it is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise for a couple of weeks.

Do I need to see the doctor again?

You may not need to see the clinic doctor / nurse again. If you have had a test at the same time as the cautery, the clinic doctor / nurse will contact you by letter to discuss whether any further treatment is necessary. However, if you have any concerns following your cautery, please contact your GP.

Hospital Telephone Contacts

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

Nurse Colposcopist: 01472 874111 ext. 2820
or 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.



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Information for patients and visitors

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

Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening /

abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Scarcho Road
Grimsby
01472 874111

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
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Information for patients and visitors

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Date of issue: April, 2015

Review Period: April, 2018

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IFP-701 v1.1

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