

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 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 cells are exposed on the surface of the cervix. As the area heals after today’s treatment 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 small risks of small amount of vaginal bleeding from this procedure .

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.

Information for patients and visitors

Hospital Telephone Contacts

Colposcopy Secretary:

Grimsby: 03033 306536

Scunthorpe / Goole: 03033 306537

Nurse Colposcopist: 03033 303590

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service offers confidential advice, support and information on any health related matters.

If you have a comment, concern, complaint or compliment about the care or service you have received from the Trust you can contact the PALS team as follows:

Telephone: 03033 306518

Email: nlq-tr.PALS@nhs.net

There are also offices at both the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital (near the main entrance) and Scunthorpe General Hospital (on the C Floor, near the outpatient department), should you wish to visit.

Please note: PALS should not be contacted for clinical advice relating to the content of this leaflet. The service should be contacted directly in the first instance.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Scartho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA**

**Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH**

**Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX**

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk



Information for patients and visitors

Date of Issue: February, 2018

Review Period: February, 2021

Author: Nurse Colposcopist DPOW / SGH

IFP-701 v1.2

© NLGFT 2018

