



# Loop Diathermy Treatment of the Cervix

## Introduction

Loop diathermy is a way of removing an area of abnormal cells from the cervix. The loop removes the abnormal cells without destroying them and the area removed is sent to the laboratory for examination. The whole procedure takes less than half an hour from start to finish.

## As an Outpatient

If you are having the treatment performed as an outpatient, a Nurse will stay with you throughout.

Initially the procedure is the same as at your Colposcopy. A speculum is inserted into the vagina and solutions are applied to the cervix to highlight the area needing treatment. The cervix is then numbed using local anaesthetic. The loop is used to remove the abnormal area and "seal" the area to prevent bleeding. The anaesthetic should ensure that the procedure is painless. When the treatment is finished, medicated cream may be inserted in to the vagina to help prevent infection.

You may feel some cramping pain, similar to a period type pain, shortly after the treatment has finished. Paracetamol or similar mild anaesthetic is all that is usually required.

We suggest that you are accompanied to the clinic.

Although the treatment is quick and simple, it is advisable to have someone who can take you home.

## After Treatment

The cervix heals in 4 to 6 weeks. During that time most people will have a blood stained vaginal discharge. Occasionally approximately 7 to 10 days after the procedure a heavier bleed may occur lasting 24 hours to 48 hours.

To enable the treated area to heal and prevent infection, you are advised:

- To use sanitary towels
- No tampons or douches
- No intercourse until advised by your Consultant
- Avoid heavy lifting or very strenuous activity until advised by your Consultant

You may shower or bath as usual. You may be asked to use medicated cream or gel in the vagina for two weeks or so after the procedure.

Please contact us if you have:

- An offensive vaginal discharge
- Persistently heavy bleeding (you have to change sanitary towels every two hours or so).
- An elevated temperature
- Abdominal pain which is not relieved by a mild pain killer for example Paracetamol

## Contact

If you need advice please contact your Consultant or call The Portland Hospital on 020 7390 8083/4 between Monday and Friday from 8am to 8pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm. For out of hours enquiries call the Gynaecology Unit on 020 7390 8180 / 8102 or the Duty Sister.

## Disclaimer

Whilst this leaflet aims to provide you with useful advice and information it must be noted that it should only act as a guideline. Should you have any further concerns about this procedure, it is advisable that you discuss it with your Consultant.

Last Updated 2002