

**WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE CENTRE
HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Peterborough Regional Health Centre
One Hospital Drive,
Peterborough, ON K9J 7C6

telephone: 705-876-5117
toll-free: 1-800-419-3111
fax: 705-876-5113

www.prhc.on.ca



Colposcopy Clinic

What you need to know about
your colposcopy appointment

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You have been referred to the Colposcopy Clinic because you have had an abnormal pap smear result. We hope this sheet and the others in the series will answer many of your questions and concerns.

Please talk with the nurse and doctor in the clinic about any other questions you may have.

What is Colposcopy?

Colposcopy uses a special piece of equipment, called a colposcope, to look at your vagina and cervix. The colposcope has a magnifying lens in it. It also has a powerful light. By looking at your cervix and vagina through the colposcope, the doctor can see the actual areas that have abnormal cells. This makes it easier for the doctor to look closely at the cells.

Why is Colposcopy done?

From your pap smear, your doctor learned that you may have some abnormal cells on some part of your vagina or cervix. With colposcopy, the clinic doctor can find out exactly where these abnormal areas are. Any areas the doctor finds can be tested to decide whether they should be treated.

Dysplasia is a word the doctor or nurse may use to describe these abnormal cells. Dysplasia just means that the cells are growing in a disorganized way.

Remember abnormal cells grow slowly. Waiting four (4) to six (6) months before your next appointment will not put you at risk.

What should I do before my Colposcopy appointment?

1. Eat a nutritious meal before your appointment.
2. Do not have vaginal intercourse or put anything into your vagina for 48 hours before your appointment.

How is Colposcopy done?

You will be asked to undress from the waist down. you will have to lie on the examination table and your feet will be put into stirrups.

You do not need any kind of anesthesia for this. The doctor will use a speculum to open your vagina, do a pap smear, and apply a mild vinegar solution to your cervix. The doctor will then use the colposcope to look at your vagina and cervix. The colposcope will not go into your vagina.

Any areas that look like they may have abnormal cells will be tested. This is done by taking a small piece of tissue (a biopsy) from the area to send to the lab. You may feel a pinch when this is done and the cervix often bleeds a little afterward. The doctor may put a tampon in your vagina, against the cervix to stop the bleeding.

The whole examination will take about 10 minutes.

When will I know the results of the test?

It takes approximately six (6) weeks for the test results to get back from the lab and be reviewed by the clinic doctor.

Your referring doctor should have the results of the pap smear and any tissue samples (biopsies) in about six (6) to eight (8) weeks time. You can call the Women's Health Care Centre at 705-876-5117 (voicemail) or 1-800-419-3111 for your results.

Instructions after Colposcopy

1. If a tampon has been inserted, remove from your vagina four (4) hours after the examination. You may continue to use a pad or tampon for any discharge. You may bleed for as long as seven (7) days after a biopsy.
2. You should not have vaginal intercourse for at least one week after a biopsy is done. If the bleeding lasts longer than one week, wait until the bleeding stops before having vaginal intercourse.

If you have questions or concerns about the bleeding, call the Colposcopy Clinic of the Women's Health Care Centre.