



Premier Care for Women

Health Care for Women by Women

COLPOSCOPY PROCEDURE

For the colposcopic exam, a speculum like the one used during a Pap test is placed in the vagina. The colposcope itself does not touch you. The cervix will be cleansed with a mild vinegar solution that sometimes causes minimal burning.

When abnormalities of the cervix are seen by colposcopy, a biopsy may be done to diagnose the problem. In this procedure small pieces of cervical tissue are removed for study. A biopsy is usually done in the doctor's office. You may have some mild cramping or a pinching sensation. The results of a biopsy will be available in 7 to 10 business days.

If you have a biopsy, a short period of healing time is necessary. You can expect some spotting or light bleeding, which is normal. Bleeding which is heavier than a menstrual period should be reported to the office. Do not douche, have intercourse, or use tampons up to two weeks. Introducing anything into the vagina could dislodge the fresh scar and cause more bleeding. Use sanitary pads or shields to protect clothing. Bathing and showers are perfectly acceptable. Following two weeks, douches may be used if you wish. If you have been given antibiotic or any sort of vaginal cream, use that carefully as instructed. Be sure to keep your follow up appointment, if that was advised, for re-evaluation.