

Patient Information Following Cervical Biopsies

You have just had a diagnostic punch biopsy taken from your cervix. This is to check the cells for the pre-cancerous changes called CIN (Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia)

Following this you may experience some of the following minor symptoms.

- You may experience abdominal cramps/'period-like' discomfort - this usually settles after a few hours. You may take simple pain relief medication such as paracetamol/ibuprofen following the recommended dose instructions on the packet.
- You may notice a black flaky or a yellowish discharge. This is completely normal and is due to the chemical cautery called silver nitrate or Monsel's solution (used to stop any bleeding). Your discharge may be bloodstained for 3-7 days.

Until your discharge has returned to what is normal for you – (this may take 3 – 10 days) Please follow these instructions

- You should use sanitary towels rather than tampons.
- You should avoid sexual intercourse.
- You should avoid swimming/jacuzzis or spas but it is okay for you to have a shower or bath. Please do not use bath oils or other bath products.
- If your discharge becomes offensive (smells) or you develop a temperature or feel flu-like, please see your GP as you may have an infection. You may need a course of antibiotics to treat this.
- Do not use vaginal douches.

We will write to you and your GP with the results within the next 2-4 weeks. We will send another appointment only if necessary to discuss any further treatment.

Should you continue to experience problems, are worried or wish to discuss your results please contact:

The Colposcopy Team: 07918474103 (Mon – Fri 8.30am – 5pm)

For out of hours advice please contact: the out of hours GP service or NHS 111.

Further information

If you would like more information, you might find it useful to look at the following websites:

www.nhs.uk

www.bsccp.co.uk

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

www.jostrust.org.uk

If you require this information in an alternative language or format (such as Braille, audiotape or large print), please ask the Women's Unit staff who are looking after you.