

PATIENT INFORMATION

Removal of cervical polyp in the outpatient department

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about having a cervical polyp removed. It explains the benefits, risks and what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or Nurse caring for you.

What is a cervical polyp?

A polyp is a growth of tissue from either the outside of the cervix (neck of the womb) or inside the cervical canal (the passage between the vagina and the womb). Polyps are usually benign (not cancerous) and can be removed quite easily.

There are often no symptoms, and the polyp will only be noticed when a woman has had a smear test. However, some polyps can cause bleeding after sexual intercourse, bleeding between periods, bleeding after menopause or discharge.

What are the benefits of removing a polyp?

- A small percentage of polyps are abnormal and may develop into a cancer if left untreated.
- Removing the polyp should make symptoms such as bleeding after sexual intercourse or in between periods return to normal.
- A polyp sometimes makes it difficult to take an adequate smear test.
- If left a polyp may continue to grow.

What happens during the procedure to remove the polyp?

Cervical polyps are removed with an instrument called polyp forceps. The instrument is used to grasp the base for the polyp and the polyp is removed with a gentle twisting motion.

Occasionally, if the polyp is large or broad based this will be removed under local anesthetic. The polyp is then sent to the laboratory for examination. The Doctor will write to you with results within 2-3 weeks.

Will I feel any pain?

Having a cervical polyp removed is not painful; however, you may feel mild discomfort similar to period pain afterwards. If you are uncomfortable, pain relief will be offered to you.

What do I need to do after I go home?

You will have some discharge/bleeding which can continue for 2-4 weeks. You should not use Tampons while you are bleeding or passing discharge. Sexual intercourse should also be avoided.

You can take a bath or shower as normal. If you feel any discomfort, you should take pain relief, such as paracetamol, following the instructions on the packet.

If you have any questions or concerns about your procedure, please contact Gynaecology Nurses: 01803 656877

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

