

If you are still concerned, please keep your appointment so that we can talk about your anxieties.

### **Your appointment**

It is extremely important that you try and keep your appointment. However if for any reason you are unable to attend for your appointment please telephone the department on 0151 702 4198

Waiting times for people to be seen in the Colposcopy Clinic are made even longer by people who fail to attend. If you cancel your appointment then this slot may be given to somebody else.

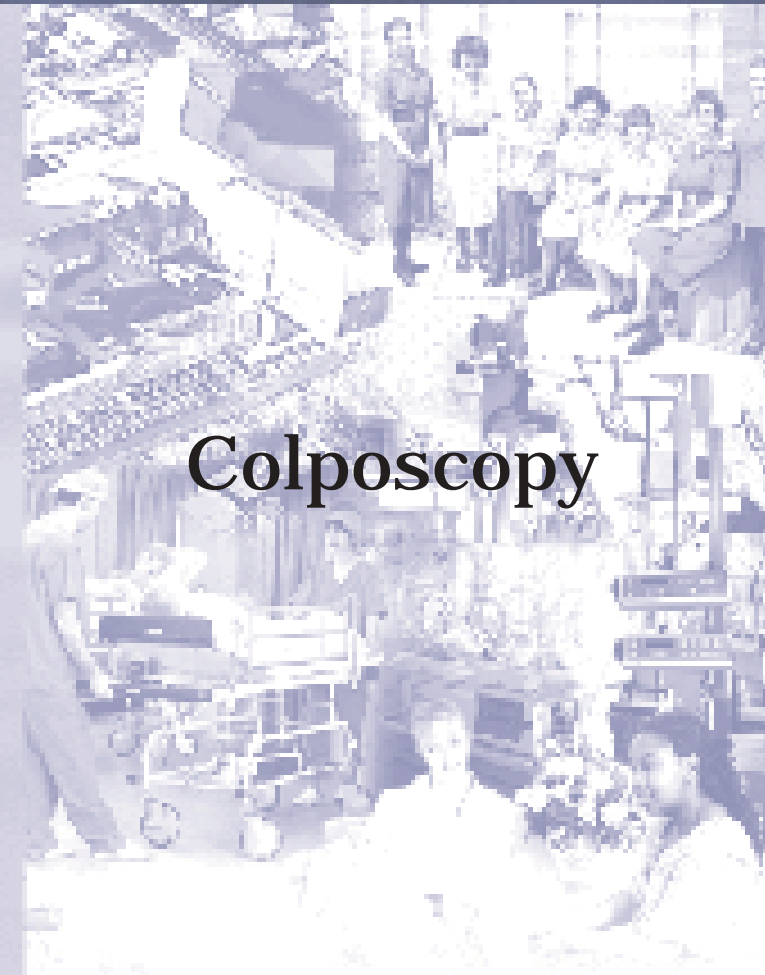
### **Attending the clinic with children**

We recommend that you try to arrange for someone to care for your children whilst you attend the clinic. however we realise that this is not always possible. If you need to bring your children with you, please remember to supervise them at all times.

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Visit our Web site at [www.lwh.org.uk](http://www.lwh.org.uk).



# Colposcopy

We have made a list of the most common questions people ask us about the colposcopy clinic and have given the answers to these questions.

If you have any further questions which you wish to ask before you attend for your colposcopy visit, then please ring the clinic on 0151 702 4198 or the nurse colposcopists on 0151 702 4266.

## **Why am I attending the Colposcopy Clinic?**

Usually it is because your cervical smear showed some 'early warning cells' which need closer inspection.

## **What am I coming for?**

You are coming for an examination with a colposcope (a magnifying instrument) used to look at the neck of your womb (cervix). This will take about 10 minutes.

## **Does the colposcope go inside me?**

NO - definitely not. The magnifying instrument and light remain outside. The only thing to go inside is the instrument which is used when you have your smear taken.

## **What is different from a smear test?**

Your legs will have some support because the actual examination takes about 10 minutes. There is no need to undress completely and you may feel more comfortable in a dress or skirt which you can keep on.

We examine the neck of the womb (cervix) and use a dilute vinegar solution to allow us to see any abnormal cells. We may take a tiny piece of skin (a biopsy) from any abnormal looking areas and most women do not feel this being taken. We do not usually use local anaesthetic before a biopsy but if you find the biopsy uncomfortable then please let us know.

## **Why is it being done?**

It is part of prevention of cancer of the cervix. You are extremely unlikely to have cancer of the cervix at this time but your smear test has shown some changes in the cells. In many cases these changes could return to normal without any treatment but sometimes the changes become worse and could possibly lead to cancer in the future.

Please remember to have a light breakfast or lunch before attending and if possible bring somebody with you.

## **After Colposcopy**

- If a biopsy has been taken you may have some vaginal bleeding for a few days.
- You should avoid full sex during this time.

## **Will I need to have treatment?**

Treatment is not always necessary and sometimes we just arrange for you to return for appointments every 6 months.

If treatment is necessary then those most fre-

quently used here are cold coagulation and loop excision. Both of these treatments aim to remove the abnormal cells and then the new cells which replace them should be normal. The treatment is successful in about 95% of cases.

Before carrying out any treatment we use some local anaesthetic on the neck of the womb. You can be completely confident that we will do all we can to make sure that you do not experience any pain. Treatment normally takes around 10 minutes and is quick and simple. We may perform this at your first visit.

- If you need treatment and have a coil in place please phone the clinic for advice.

## **Are there any other treatments?**

Sometimes it may be necessary for you to come into hospital. This may be for a cone biopsy which would usually be performed as a day case procedure.

## **After treatment**

- Following your treatment you may have a vaginal discharge or some bleeding for several weeks.
- You should avoid full sex for one month.
- If you have any questions about your visit or your treatment please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff in the clinic.
- If your period is due on your appointment day please telephone the department to let us know as we may need to offer an alternative appointment.
- If you have any queries before you attend for your appointment please contact the Nurse Colposcopists on 0151 702 4266.