Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Having Cervical Cautery

Version number: **3**
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Having Cervical Cautery

Patient Information

Colposcopy Service – Gynaecology Department

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Introduction

Welcome to the Colposcopy Clinic. This leaflet aims to help women who may need to have a procedure known as cautery to the cervix (neck of the womb). We hope this information will be useful for you.

What is cervical cautery?

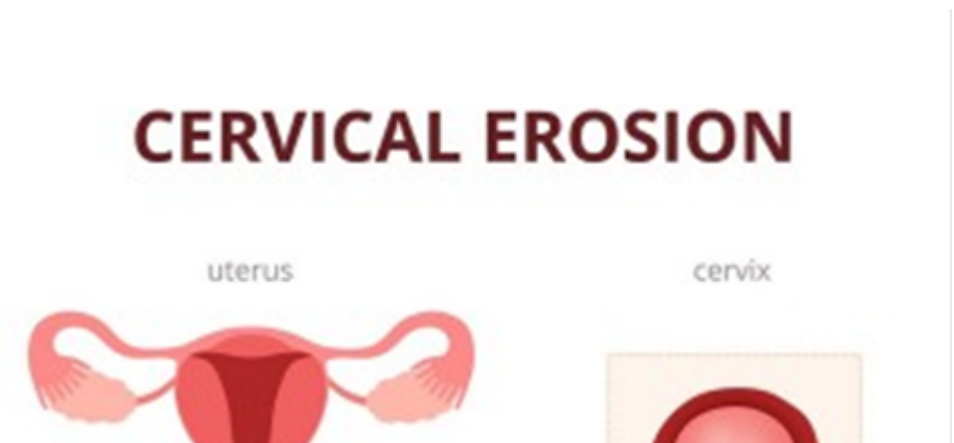
Cervical cautery is a method of using heat to treat problems associated with the cervix causing bleeding with sexual intercourse. The change in the cervix is called an ectropion (sometimes referred to as erosion). An ectropion is a normal occurrence when the delicate cells lining the inside of the cervix become exposed on the surface of the cervix.

Cervical ectropion is not linked to the development of cervical cancer or any other condition that cause cervical cancer.

The procedure is carried out in the outpatient clinic under local anaesthetic (i.e. you are awake).

As the area heals after cautery, a scab will form which will gradually heal, leaving healthy tissue underneath.

Sometimes a doctor might feel it is necessary to perform a biopsy (remove a small piece of tissue) from the ectropion before doing cautery.



Risks

The Cervical ectropion could return after treatment.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will it be painful afterwards?

Some women do experience slight abdominal discomfort for a few hours. This is like a period pain. You may need to take a mild painkiller.

Will I bleed afterwards?

You may have a blood-stained discharge for up to four weeks after your treatment.

However, if the discharge lasts more than four weeks or starts to smell offensive, contact your GP or the Colposcopy Clinic (contact details below).

If you have any heavy bleeding, please contact the Colposcopy Clinic.

Your cervix will heal with little or no scarring. We recommend that you do not use tampons, have showers instead of baths and avoid swimming until the discharge has stopped completely.

How soon afterwards can I have sex?

While your cervix is healing, it is vulnerable to infection and damage. For this reason, we advise you not to have sex for four weeks or until the discharge has stopped completely.

Do I need time off work?

No. You can carry out all your normal activities including work, although it is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise for a couple of weeks.

How and when will I receive my result?

You may have had a cervical biopsy (small sample of tissue) taken as well – if this is the case, the clinic doctor will contact you and your GP with your results by letter. This can take up to six weeks. Unfortunately, we are unable to give you your results over the phone.

Do I need to see the doctor again?

You may not need to see the doctor again. If you have had a biopsy, the clinic doctor will contact you by letter to discuss whether any further treatment is necessary. However, if you have any concerns following your cautery, please contact your GP.

Hospital Telephone Contacts

Women's Health Care reception 01942 264959

Colposcopy coordinator 01942 264091

After 5pm, Swinley ward, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary 01942 825268



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