

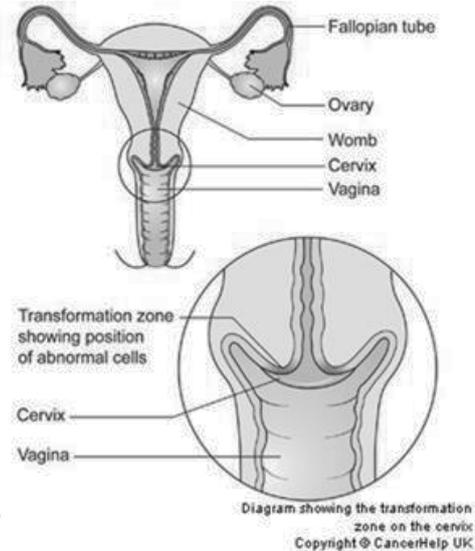
LLETZ (*large loop excision of the transformation zone*)

What is the procedure?

LLETZ is a means of removing the transformation zone (see diagram) from the cervix (neck of the womb) using a thin loop of electrified wire.

Why are you having this procedure?

The transformation zone (TZ) is a small area situated at the opening of the neck of the womb. When a cervical smear reports abnormal changes in this area it is often advisable to remove the TZ in order to prevent cancer developing at some time in the future.



What are the risks or potential complications of LLETZ?

There is risk involved in every procedure. Your colposcopist or doctor will explain the most common risks which are:

Bleeding:

It is normal to have some light bleeding for 4-6 weeks after treatment. In the immediate days following treatment this may appear as a black & brown discharge. About 7-10 days after treatment the discharge may become watery and have a metallic or vegetable water smell. This is part of the healing process. Other than a normal period we would not expect you to have heavy bleeding. If there is any concern we would advise you to contact the colposcopy department on 01 408 5510 or 01 408 5471. The clinic is open Monday to Friday 08.00- 16.00. Out of hours we advise you to see your GP or to come in to the emergency room at the Coombe.

Infection:

Infection is uncommon. In the event of an offensive or foul smelling discharge you are advised to contact your GP.

Will I be asked to sign a consent form or is verbal consent needed?

If you are having the procedure done under local anaesthetic you will be asked to give verbal consent for the procedure. If you are having the procedure under general anaesthetic you will be asked to give written consent.

What type of anaesthetic is used for this procedure?

It is nearly always possible to do this using local anaesthetic in the Colposcopy Clinic without the need for general anaesthetic or inpatient stay. However sometimes it is necessary to have the procedure done in theatre for patient comfort or for easier access to the area for treatment.

What does the procedure involve?

If you are having a local anaesthetic you will have the procedure performed in the Colposcopy Department where you had your first visit with us. We would advise you to make sure you eat before coming to the clinic to maintain your sugar levels after the procedure.

You will already have had a diagnostic colposcopy (examination of the cervix) at an earlier visit, during which time we identified the need for this LLETZ procedure. The preparation for this LLETZ procedure is the same as it was for the colposcopy examination. We then use a fine heated wire loop to remove the affected area.

However

If you are having a **general anaesthetic** you will need to attend an anaesthetic review clinic before your admission. An appointment will be sent to you in the post if you haven't been seen at one of their walk in slots immediately following your gynaecology out-patient/colposcopy appointment. If you are to have a general anaesthetic, you will need to **fast from food for a period of 6 hours** and **fast from water for a period of 2 hours** prior to your admission.

How long does it take?

The procedure itself takes between 5 and 10 minutes.

Will I have pain during or following this procedure?

You should not feel any pain during the procedure. If you are having a general anaesthetic you will be asleep.

If you are having a local anaesthetic this is given prior to the treatment so the area will be numb. Some women feel a slight pressure on their cervix but this feels more like mild discomfort than pain.

Removed tissue- what happens to it?

The piece of tissue that is removed from your cervix is sent to the laboratory for testing. A report is normally issued within 4 weeks. We will then write to you with your results and confirm your follow up.

What follow-up care is needed?

Routinely we will see you back in the colposcopy clinic in 6 months' time for a smear and Human Papilloma Virus test. Should we need to make any changes to this follow up plan we will write and let you know.

How long should I wait before I have sexual intercourse for the first time following procedure?

We recommend waiting 4 weeks before resuming sexual intercourse to reduce the risk of infection.

Is there anything else I should avoid?

To minimise an infection risk we advise you to avoid using tampons, taking baths or going swimming/using Jacuzzis for 4 weeks after treatment. You may use the shower for washing. We also recommend avoiding strenuous exercise for at least 2 weeks after the procedure to allow healing to take place.

What do I need to know and the morning of the procedure and what to bring with me?

An information sheet about what to bring for admission for surgery is available on our website www.coombe.ie gynaecology page, if you haven't already been given the written sheet at your outpatient visit.

Who can I contact if I have any more questions?

You can contact the colposcopy nurses on 01 408 5804, 5220, 5510 or 5471.

For further information

www.cervicalcheck.ie

References

Having a loop diathermy under local or general anaesthetic following a colposcopy. Guys and St Thomas' NHS foundation Trust Oct 2015

Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone. Coombe Women and Infants Hospital Feb 2010

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