

COLPOSCOPY FACTSHEET

This factsheet has been prepared for women who have been given an appointment for the Colposcopy Clinic. The purpose of your visit to the Colposcopy Clinic is to prevent gynaecological problems developing in the future. Provided you attend the clinic for your check-up, there is no need to be anxious about your health.

Why am I going to the Colposcopy Clinic?

Your cervical smear test has shown that some cells on the neck of the womb (cervix) need close inspection. This is part of the cervical screening and prevention programme.

What is Colposcopy?

Colposcopy is the inspection of the cervix with a magnifying instrument. The instrument does not need to be introduced into the vagina. The inspection should not be any more uncomfortable than a normal smear test, and usually takes about 15 minutes.

Why is Colposcopy done?

Colposcopy is intended to *prevent* cancer of the cervix developing in the future.

Will I need treatment?

About two out of three women referred to the Colposcopy clinic will require some form of treatment. The treatment is usually done under local anaesthesia in the Outpatient Department. This treatment takes about 15 minutes and patients can go home straight afterwards. Some patients may be treated at their first visit.

Should I attend if I have my period?

Women attending the clinic for the first time should attend for their check-up whether they have a period or not.

If you need any further information, please ask the doctor or nurse looking after you in the Colposcopy Clinic.

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