

# Colposcopy

A colposcopy is a test done to check your vagina and cervix for abnormal cells. You may have a colposcopy if a pap smear shows cells that look abnormal. The doctor uses a magnifying scope to check for abnormal tissue of the vagina and cervix. A small tissue sample, called a biopsy, may be removed to be checked in the lab.

**Arrive on time for your test.** The test takes about 15-20 minutes. Plan to be here about 2 hours.

## During the Test

- You may wear a hospital gown.
- You are helped onto the exam table. Lie down on your back and put your feet in the stirrups.
- The cervix is covered with a weak vinegar solution. This makes the abnormal cells show up.
- The doctor checks your vagina and cervix for abnormal cells.
- If your doctor wants to take tissue samples from the vagina, you will feel some pain or strong cramps. This will go away in about 1 minute.
- Any bleeding is stopped with pressure and a chemical solution.

Your doctor or nurse will contact you in about 2 weeks with your test results and to discuss treatment if needed.

## Your Care at Home

- Do not have sexual intercourse, use tampons or douche for 24 hours.
- If you had a biopsy, you may have a small amount of bloody vaginal discharge for a day. You may wear a pad.
- You may take a shower. Do not take a tub bath for 3 days. This increases your chance for infection.

Call your doctor **right away** if you have:

- A large amount of bleeding where you soak a pad in an hour
- Severe abdominal cramps or pain
- Chills or fever of 101 degrees F or 38 degrees C
- Vaginal discharge that has an strange odor

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**