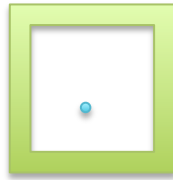


Colposcopy Information Sheet:

Colposcopy is used to 'zoom in' on the cervix to see if there are abnormal appearing patches of skin on the cervix. These patches of skin are seen better using regular vinegar. The vinegar usually doesn't feel like anything except its wet – but some women might say it stings a little. Most say it doesn't feel like anything.

Most often, a biopsy is performed. The size of a biopsy is shown in this frame:



It is a small biopsy and it feels like someone pushing on something up inside or maybe scratching. Most people hear the biopsy instrument clicking more than they feel the biopsy itself. It is extremely rare for a biopsy to cause intense pain. In fact, 'numbing' medicine is not needed to do this biopsy.

You do not need to take Ibuprofen or Tylenol™ before the visit because it feels like a longer pap smear. A colposcopy usually takes around 5 -10 minutes.

A scraping is also obtained from the lining of the cervix. I have an instrument that scratches the lining and pulls some flecks of tissue out – this causes tolerable cramping that does not last very long. The cramps usually last a few seconds.

MAIN POINTS:

1. A pap smear is just a screening test – so if it comes back abnormal, it doesn't mean you have something wrong, it just means we need to look closer to make sure – and we do that with a colposcopy procedure.
2. Most of the time, all we have to do is 'prove you are okay' and repeat your pap smear in 6 months to really, doubly, prove you are healthy and okay.
3. IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM US WITHIN ONE WEEK, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL US!!! We will ALWAYS notify you of your results, whether they are normal or not!
4. You may experience slight cramping afterwards – Ibuprofen or Tylenol should help.
5. You may also have light bleeding or spotting and a brownish discharge. Call if your bleeding is more than a heavy period.
6. Never douche.