



## **COLPOSCOPY WITH BIOPSY OR LEEP INFORMATION & CONSENT**

Your physician has recommended that you undergo a colposcopic procedure. Colposcopy is a means whereby during a pelvic examination, the physician may use a special microscope to magnify and examine carefully the labial area, vagina and cervix. Although there are a number of reasons why colposcopy has been recommended, the most common reason is the evaluation of an abnormal pap smear. Colposcopy allows your physician to view the surface of the cervix in a way that any abnormal tissue may be identified. Your physician will then determine the most appropriate diagnostic and treatment methods based on the findings of the exam. The main purpose of using the colposcope is to help find the areas of the cell abnormality for sampling. Occasionally, the area to be sampled is not visualized well with the colposcope or the significant area of the abnormality is missed and additional biopsies and treatment may be necessary. It is very important that you follow up with all of the recommended treatment and testing, especially your repeat pap smear in short interval schedule.

**Colposcopy with biopsy:** During the procedure, your physician may identify areas of abnormal tissue and biopsy them. A biopsy is a small pinch of tissue which is removed and sent to a pathologist for microscopic evaluation. The biopsy is not a "treatment". It is a diagnostic procedure which enables your physician to clarify the type and extent of abnormal tissue growth. Further treatment will be recommended following the results of the biopsy.

**Leep:** LEEP (loop electrosurgical excision procedure) is an office procedure that can both diagnose and treat most cases of tissue abnormality of the cervix, vulva, and vaginal areas. A local anesthesia similar to Novocain is injected into the cervix to numb the area. Then, electrical current is applied with a small wand which removes the abnormal tissue. The removed tissue is sent to pathology to be reviewed by a pathologist. Usually, this procedure removes the entire area of abnormal tissues so repeat biopsies are not necessary and follow up pap smears in short intervals are the next step.

### **Risks of these procedures include:**

- **Bleeding.** Since these procedures involve removal of tissue, there may be some bleeding. Normally, this is controlled with the application of topical medicines during the procedure. Rarely, heavy bleeding may show up as a late complication within 5 to 10 days after procedure. If heavy bleeding occurs, we may ask you to return to the office for further treatment.
- **Infection.** The cervix and vaginal areas are normally fairly resistant to infection following biopsy, however occasionally infection does occur and may present as unusual pain, discharge, heavy or excessive bleeding, fever, or bad odor. To decrease the risk of infection, it is recommended that you do not use tampons, douche, or have sexual intercourse for one week after colposcopy with biopsy.

**\*\*\*If you experience any of the problems listed above, please call our office and speak with a nurse.\*\*\***