

# Cervical Punch Biopsy

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**Colposcopy**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

## **What is a cervical punch biopsy?**

A cervical punch biopsy is when a small piece of tissue is taken from the cervix.

## **Why did I have a biopsy taken?**

Your colposcopy examination showed an area on your cervix where there may be an abnormality. The biopsy will be sent to the laboratory to be reviewed. The results will tell us if there is an abnormality present. This will guide us in deciding on the most appropriate management option for you.

## **What should I expect following the biopsy?**

You can expect a slight blood-stained discharge, possibly streaked with grey/black, to last for a few days. This is entirely normal and due to the silver nitrate used to stop any bleeding. It should clear by itself.

Use sanitary towels, not tampons, for the bleeding / discharge. This is to allow the area to heal and to reduce the risk of infection.

Avoid sexual intercourse for five days or longer until the bleeding/discharge has stopped again, to allow the area to heal and reduce the risk of infection.

You may find you experience “period type discomfort” immediately after the procedure or later on during the day. If necessary mild pain relief (such as paracetamol /ibuprofen) can be taken.

## **What risks or complications can occur?**

Complications are very rare but can include:

- Infection from the biopsy site
- Excessive vaginal bleeding / discharge
- Lower abdominal pain
- Feeling unwell / raised temperature

If you do experience any of the above please contact your G.P. or contact the Colposcopy Department for further advice.

## **When will my results be available?**

In approximately four weeks. We will write to you and your G.P. with your results. This letter will also inform you of the decision made in regards to your follow up within the Colposcopy Clinic.

The Colposcopy Clinic Team would be more than happy to answer any questions / queries you may have. Please contact the numbers below asking to speak to a member of the Colposcopy Clinic Team.

Claire Thornton / Lynda Jackson at Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Westmorland General – **01524 512338**

Sarah Mason / Pat Nicholson at Furness General – **01229 403616**  
(Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm)

**Out of Clinic and Surgery hours, we advise you to contact:**

Ward 16 Gynaecology at Royal Lancaster Infirmary – 01524 583820 Ward 1 Gynaecology at Furness General – 01229 870870 Ext 54107

Please read the leaflet entitled “The Colposcopy Examination” for further information.

## Useful Websites

British Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology -[www.bsccp.org](http://www.bsccp.org) Healthtalkonline - [www.healthtalkonline.org](http://www.healthtalkonline.org)

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust -[www.jostrust.org.uk](http://www.jostrust.org.uk) NHS Choices - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Cancer Research UK – [www.cruk.org](http://www.cruk.org)

Cancer Screening NHS - [www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

## Helpline

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. Call: 0808 802 8000.

## Leaflet Details

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## **Other formats**

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

## **Travelling to our hospitals**

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website:  
<http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

## **Useful Contact Details**

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

## **Your Information**

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

## **Evidence**

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

## **Feedback**

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

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