



Cone Biopsy

What you need to know



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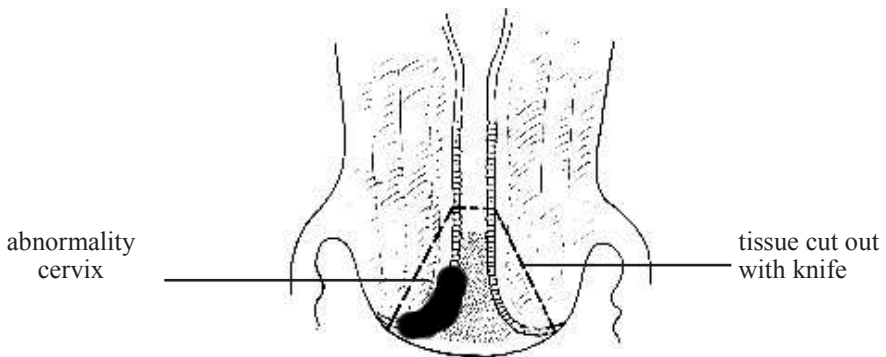
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CERVICAL CONE BIOPSY

THE PROCEDURE

I have recommended you to have a cone biopsy to your cervix. The procedure is performed under general anaesthesia and requires a day in hospital or a Day Surgery Centre. The procedure involves cutting a “cone” of tissue from your cervix because of precancerous changes or suspicion of early cancerous changes in your cervix. The aim of the procedure is to determine the nature and extent of your paps near abnormality as well as to treat the abnormality. Prior to the procedure, depending on your individual circumstances, the cervix may need to be examined once again to get a close-up view of the surface of the cervix. This is done by a colposcope, (a magnifying instrument).

The procedure takes about 30 minutes. Often I will also perform a curette (D&C) to make sure there are no abnormalities above the cone biopsy.



cone biopsy

COMMON REASONS FOR CONE BIOPSY

1. Abnormal pap smear which cannot be fully evaluated by colposcopy prior to surgery. Remember that most abnormalities are **PRE**-cancerous **NOT** cancerous and often will be cured after the operation.
2. Suspicion of early cancerous changes
3. Recurrent atypical papsmears

RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Serious complications from this procedure are **rare**.

The risks include the following:

- Severe cramping. This may last for 1 or 2 days but will settle down.
- Heavy bleeding. It is usual to get some bleeding, which may last up to 3 weeks. However occasionally heavy bleeding occurs which requires re-admission to hospital.
- Pelvic infection. Usually occurs within 7 days and causes pain, tenderness and fever or excessive bleeding.
- Narrowing of the cervical opening which may lead to period pains in the future. (*late complication may occur 2-3 months after procedure*)
- Cervical incompetence. Occasionally a cone biopsy may weaken the cervix and cause problems with pregnancy and miscarriages.

YOUR RECOVERY

The most common symptom after the procedure is mild cramping. This can be relieved by medications. (Nurofen, Naprogesic, Naprosyn etc). To prevent this cramping, a Naprosyn suppository is inserted in your rectum (back-passage) at the end of the procedure before you wake up.

As the cervix heals you may notice one or more of the following:

- Mild vaginal bleeding or brownish discharge which may last up to 3 weeks
- Heavier bleeding during your next period.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE DURING YOUR RECOVERY

Your cervix will heal more adequately if you observe the following precautions for the first 3 weeks.

- **Avoid sexual intercourse** until I review you.
- Do not insert tampons. Use pads instead (At least for the 1st 3 weeks)
- Avoid baths. Have showers only
- No heavy lifting.
- No vigorous exercise.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT

I would like to see you again in about 3 to 4 weeks time.

You will need to ring my rooms to make this appointment as soon as practical to make a followup appointment.

URGENT APPOINTMENT

There may be times when I may need to see you earlier. Be sure to call my rooms or contact me, if you experience any one of the following and make an **urgent** appointment to see me, see your local doctor or go to Campbelltown hospital casualty and get the doctor to contact me:

- Heavy bleeding or bleeding with clots.
- Severe abdominal pain and cramping.
- Fever.
- Foul smelling discharge.

