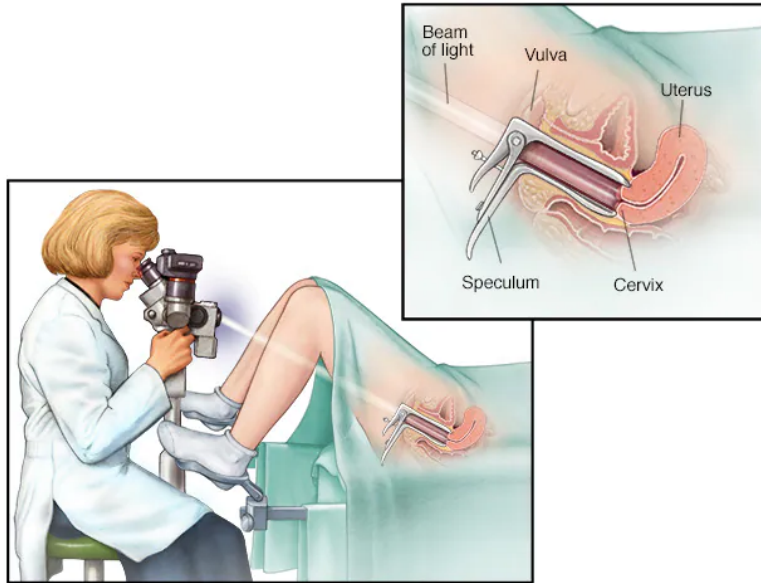




## **What is a Colposcopy?**

A colposcopy is a type of gynaecological exam that helps your doctor take a closer look at your cervix, vulva, and vagina. The cervix is the lower part of your uterus that opens into your vagina. The exam is usually performed when you have Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) detected on your cervical screening test (CST)



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During the procedure, your doctor will use a special instrument called a colposcope to examine the cervix, vulva, and vagina. The colposcope magnifies the area and provides a bright light, making it easier for the doctor to see any changes or abnormalities. The procedure usually takes about 15-20 minutes and is performed while you are lying on your back with your feet in stirrups. Your doctor will use a speculum to hold open the vagina and may apply a vinegar solution to the cervix to help highlight any areas of concern. A colposcopy is a painless procedure, but you may experience some discomfort or pressure during the exam.

It's important to keep in mind that a colposcopy is not a diagnostic test, but rather a tool that helps your doctor get a better view of your cervix so they can determine if any further testing or treatment is necessary.

## **What is a Biopsy?**

During the colposcopy, your doctor will probably perform a biopsy if there are any suspicious areas. A cervical biopsy is a procedure that involves removing a small sample of tissue from your cervix for examination under a microscope. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina.

During the biopsy, the doctor use a small instrument to remove a small piece of tissue. The biopsy sample will then be sent to a laboratory for examination. The biopsy procedure is usually quick and relatively painless, but you may experience some cramping or light bleeding afterwards.

It's important to remember that a cervical biopsy is a diagnostic tool, and the results will help your doctor determine the best course of action for your care. If the biopsy results are abnormal, your doctor may recommend further testing or treatment.