

LEEP - Loop Electro Surgical Excision Procedure

What is LEEP?

The removal of abnormal cells from the cervix with a fine wire loop.

Duration

The procedure takes 20 to 30 minutes.

How is this performed?

- You will be asked to lie on the examination bed with your legs supported by stirrups.
- A speculum will be placed in your vagina (like for a Pap smear).
- A colposcope - a special kind of microscope - will be set up for viewing the cervical area.
- A weak vinegar solution (acetic acid) will be applied to your cervix. This highlights the abnormal cells.
- Your cervix is anaesthetised with local anaesthetic.
- The abnormal cells are then removed by an electrified wire loop.
- The removed cells are retained as a specimen for testing by Pathology.
- The treated area is then cauterised (sealed using heat) to prevent bleeding.
- A tampon may be inserted to absorb any discharge (you will be informed of this).

After the procedure

- If a tampon was inserted - please remove it after four hours.
- Watery discharge is normal for up to four weeks after treatment. Use panty liners NOT TAMPONS to absorb this if necessary.
- Seek medical advice from your GP or KEMH Emergency Department on (08) 9340 1433 if you experience any of the following:
 - offensive vaginal discharge
 - heavy vaginal bleeding up to 14 days after treatment
 - severe abdominal cramps and/or pain

Avoid

- Heavy exercise for ten days
- Sexual intercourse for at least four weeks

The test results for the removed cells will be posted to you and your GP in three to four weeks.

A follow-up colposcopy is required six months after treatment. This will be automatically booked in by the Hospital and an appointment letter will be posted to you.

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