



you should come back for a checkup.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROCEDURE?

Benefits of this procedure are:

- ⊃ Your doctor should be able to make a better diagnosis of the problem in your cervix or vagina and suggest further treatment if necessary.
- ⊃ The procedure can be done without an anesthetic.
- ⊃ The procedure can be done in the health care doctor's office rather than a hospital.
- ⊃ The procedure is simple with few side effects or complications.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCEDURE?

- ⊃ Minor bleeding from the biopsy site may occur. Other risks include:
- ⊃ heavy bleeding (soaking more than one pad per hour, or more bleeding than



- ⊃ your normal menstrual flow)
- ⊃ infection.

You should ask your doctor how these risks apply to you.

WHEN SHOULD I CALL MY DOCTOR?

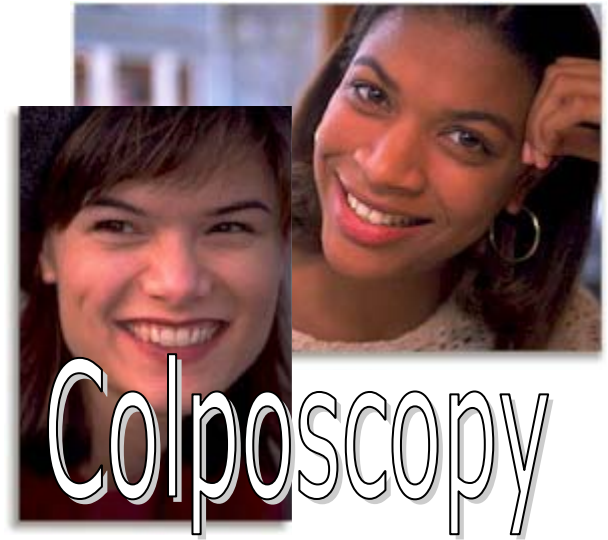
Call your doctor right away if:

- ⊃ You have heavy bleeding.
- ⊃ You have a fever over 100°F (37.8°C) 24 to 72 hours after the procedure.
- ⊃ You have bleeding that lasts over 2 weeks.

Information contained in this booklet is meant for informational purposes only and should not substitute the visit to your doctor nor his/her advice for your health care.

Accuracy of the content is current to the date of printing.

January 2009



DR. RAYMOND MANSOOR

*B Sc , MB BS , DM (OG, UWI), FACOG
OBSTETRICIAN & GYNAECOLOGIST*

TANNER STREET & CORN ALLEY
P.O. Box W1361
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA
TEL/FAX: (268) 463 2232/3
info@mansoormedical.org
www.mansoormedical.org

Colposcopy

WHAT IS A COLPOSCOPY?

A colposcopy is a test in which your doctor uses an instrument called a colposcope to look at the vagina, vulva, and cervix. Your doctor may also use the scope to take a sample of tissue (biopsy).

WHEN IS IT USED?

This test may be done after you have had abnormal Pap test results indicating a pre-cancerous growth, or cancer. It is also used to get a closer look at areas of the vagina, cervix, and vulva that do not look normal.

You could choose not to have treatment, recognizing the risks of your condition. You should ask your doctor about these choices. Tell your doctor if you think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will want to perform the procedure in a different way if you are pregnant.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A COLPOSCOPY?

Plan to have the test when you are not having a menstrual period. These tests are not done dur-



ing a period.

Do not douche or have sexual intercourse within 24 hours of the test.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

Because the cervix has little pain sensation, you will not need an anesthetic. You will lie on the examining table with your feet in stirrups, just as you do for a regular pelvic exam. Your doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina. This is the same tool used during a Pap test. It will be opened slightly to spread the vagina so the cervix can be seen. Your doctor will do a Pap test and then use a swab to put a weak solution of acetic acid on your cervix or vagina. (The acid is like the acid in vinegar.) You may feel a slight stinging sensation caused by the solution, but it is not painful. The acid will turn abnormal tissue white and show where a sample of tissue should be taken. Your doctor will then put a thick, pasty solution on the area to be biopsied. This will help prevent bleeding.

Your doctor will place the colposcope at the opening of your vagina. When your doctor looks into the vagina, he or she will also see your cervix. Photographs may be taken. Your doctor may use an instrument to pinch or cut off a small tissue sample for lab tests. You may feel a pinch or slight cramp. The removal of the sample of tissue is called a biopsy.

The doctor will remove the instruments. The tissue will



be sent to the lab.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

Your doctor will tell you what he or she saw. The test results should be ready within 1 to 2 weeks, depending on the lab.

You may feel a little lightheaded right after the test. You may have to lie down for a few minutes after the test is over. You may have some cramping for a short time afterwards.

You may have a little dark-colored, sandy discharge from the vagina for a few days after the procedure. If you had a biopsy, the bleeding may last up to a week. You may notice a thick black discharge after a biopsy. If so, it is caused by a thick, brownish-yellow paste that is placed on the area to help stop bleeding. When it mixes with blood, it forms a thick black discharge. This discharge may last for a few days.

A mild solution may be prescribed as a douche after the procedure. But if you have a biopsy, you should not douche or use tampons for 2 weeks, in order to allow the area to heal.

If your doctor took a sample of tissue, do not have sexual intercourse for 48 to 72 hours after the procedure. But you should always ask your doctor what steps you should take and when

