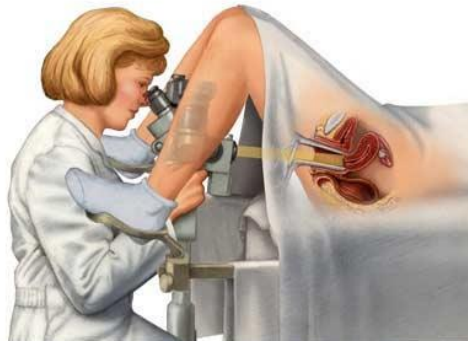




Colposcopy Information

A visit for colposcopy is similar to a visit for a Pap smear. You will lie on the exam table, undressed from the waist down, and your feet will be placed in the stirrups. The colposcope does not touch your body; it is a special camera that helps the provider see your cervix in detail. The health care provider will look closely at your cervix for any cells that are abnormal, and if an area of abnormality is found, a tiny sample of tissue will be taken from the cervix. This sample of tissue is called a biopsy. It will be sent to a lab to be studied. When the biopsy is taken you may feel a pinch and afterwards, you may notice light vaginal bleeding for several days. The results of the colposcopy and biopsy will help determine what treatment will be best for you.



Preparing for your colposcopy exam

- The colposcopy cannot be done during your period.
- Do not douche during the three days before your appointment.
- Do not have sex for twenty-four hours before your appointment.
- Always let the ECU Student Health Service know if you cannot keep your appointment or if you decide to have your colposcopy performed at an outside office.

After the colposcopy exam...

Do not douche, use a tampon or have sex for seven days after the biopsy so that the area can heal. Results are normally available about a week after the procedure. When you return to learn about the results of your biopsy, the health care provider will talk with you about the treatment or follow up that is best for you. For the next year to year and a half, you may need to have Pap tests more frequently.

Have a general question about abnormal Pap tests, colposcopy, or cervical cancer prevention? E-mail us at gotquestions@ecu.edu.



Student Health Service
Division of Student Affairs
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