



OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY, PC

Women Proudly Caring for Women

275 Collier Road NW Suite 230
Atlanta, GA 30309
www.awog.org

Telephone (404) 352-3616
Facsimile (404) 352-2028
Answering Service (404) 609-0358

Procedure: Colposcopy

Indication:

A colposcopy is an in-office procedure performed following an abnormal pap smear to view cervical and endocervical cells. Small samples of tissue (biopsies) may be obtained for laboratory evaluation.

Prep:

Prior to a colposcopy, you should refrain from sexual intercourse, douching, vaginal creams and tampons for at least forty-eight (48) hours. Inform your physician of any of the following:

- If you are pregnant or if you might be pregnant.
- If you have pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) or any sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- If you are allergic to any medications.
- If you take a blood thinning medication such as Coumadin or aspirin or if you have a history of bleeding problems.

A pregnancy test will be administered in our office prior to the procedure. Feel free to take ibuprofen tablets prior to the colposcopy to help with cramping you may experience.

Description:

A colposcopy usually lasts ten (10) minutes. During the colposcopy, you will be undressed from the waist down and lie on your back with your feet in stir-ups. A speculum will be inserted into the vagina. A diluted vinegar solution will be applied to the cervix, which allows the abnormal cells to be visualized. You may experience a burning or tingling sensation from the vinegar solution. If abnormal cells are identified, the doctor will obtain biopsy specimens. In addition to the cervical biopsies, samples may be taken from the cervical canal using an endocervical curettage (ECC). If biopsies are obtained, you may experience slight cramping. Following biopsies, a solution may be applied to the cervix to minimize bleeding. Specimens obtained are sent to the laboratory for processing. Results are usually received 7-10 business days after the procedure.

Recovery:

After a colposcopy, some patients experience slight discomfort and/or cramping and some vaginal spotting. If biopsies are obtained during the procedure, you may have a brownish, clumpy discharge associated with the solution used to stop the bleeding. You are able to return to normal activities following the colposcopy except; you should refrain from sexual intercourse, douching, vaginal creams and tampons for seven (7) days while the cervix heals. Please notify your physician if you experience any of the following:

- Severe abdominal pain
 - Fever or chills
 - Foul smelling discharge
 - Bleeding heavier than a regular period
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