

Other information

Please let us know if you wish to be seen by a female doctor or nurse, we will try to arrange this for you.

If you are having your period, you may still have the examination. If you prefer, you may change your appointment.

The colposcopy examination will take about 20 minutes.

Treatment has little or no effect on your chances of getting pregnant nor on your risk of having a miscarriage.

Facts

- **One in ten smear tests are abnormal.**
- **Colposcopy examinations are very common.**
- **It is very rare for abnormal cells to be cancer.**

Further sources of information

Translations of cervical leaflets:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-description-in-brief>

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service:

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222 ext. 3988

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net. This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Colposcopy



**Healthier Communities,
Outstanding Care**

You have been asked to have a colposcopy

This does not mean you have cervical cancer. A colposcopy is another screening test which is simple and quick.

It allows a doctor or nurse to have a closer look at the cervix (neck of the womb) with a bright light magnification using a colposcope.

The colposcope does not go inside you.

It should not be painful or any more uncomfortable than having a smear test.

If abnormal cells are found, then treatment can be given. This is nearly always 100% effective in preventing cervical cancer.

The procedure:

- Your doctor or nurse will ask a few questions and explain your smear test result.
- You will be asked to remove the clothes below your waist.
- You will be asked to lie down on a special couch.
- A female assistant will be with you at all times
- A speculum will be put into your vagina, like having a smear test.
- The doctor or nurse will then examine your cervix using the colposcope. They will apply a special dye to allow any abnormal cells to show up.

Biopsy

Sometimes a very small piece of tissue may be taken from the surface of the cervix; this is called a biopsy.

You may have some slight discharge/bleeding for a few days.

You should not have sex for 2-3 days to allow yourself to heal.

The doctor or nurse will explain how you will be given the results of your biopsy.

Treatment

Not all cell changes need treatment as they may disappear on their own. Your doctor or nurse will explain any treatment that they recommend.

Sometimes treatments to remove abnormal cells can be done during your appointment or you may be offered a follow up appointment.

