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PATIENT INSTRUCTION FOR COLPOSCOPY

Colposcopy is the magnified inspection of the surface of a woman's genital area, including the cervix, vagina, and vulva, using a light source and a binocular microscope – a colposcope. It is used to evaluate potentially cancerous areas, typically after an abnormal pap smear. A biopsy of an abnormal area may be taken during the procedure.

The following are instructions regarding the colposcopy and cervical biopsy. If you have any questions concerning the test, please **contact the office at 215-444-3411**.

- Please call the office to cancel your procedure if you are bleeding. Do not douche, use tampons or use vaginal medicines for 24 hours before the biopsy. You will empty your bladder just before your biopsy.
- Colposcopy takes approximately 15-20 minutes to perform. If biopsy of cervix is performed, you may feel a sharp pinch followed by cramping. Some women feel dizzy and sick to their stomachs. This is called a vasovagal reaction. This feeling will go away after the biopsy. Occasionally, you may experience some mild cramping for the remainder of the day.
- Medication used to stop bleeding from biopsy site may be seen as dark vaginal discharge (resembling coffee ground) on the pad.
- It is common to experience spotting or light bleeding after the biopsy lasting 3-25 days. It is important that you try to distinguish the onset of your next period from the spotting or bleeding that the biopsy may have caused.
- The patient should avoid sexual intercourse, vaginal medications, or tampons until the bleeding stops.
- You should be able to drive yourself to and from the office and return to work immediately.
- If you experience pelvic pain for more than 24 hours or excessive bleeding, or begin running a temperature after the procedure, please call our office.
- You should call our office 7-10 days after your biopsy was performed to learn the results of the study.