

# Advice after loop diathermy treatment to the cervix

Women's and Children's Division

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Information for Patients

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## Introduction

You have received treatment on your cervix (the neck of the womb), called **loop diathermy** treatment. You needed this treatment following the abnormal smear test which caused your referral to the hospital.

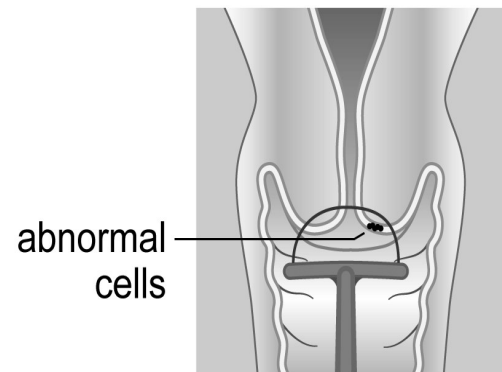
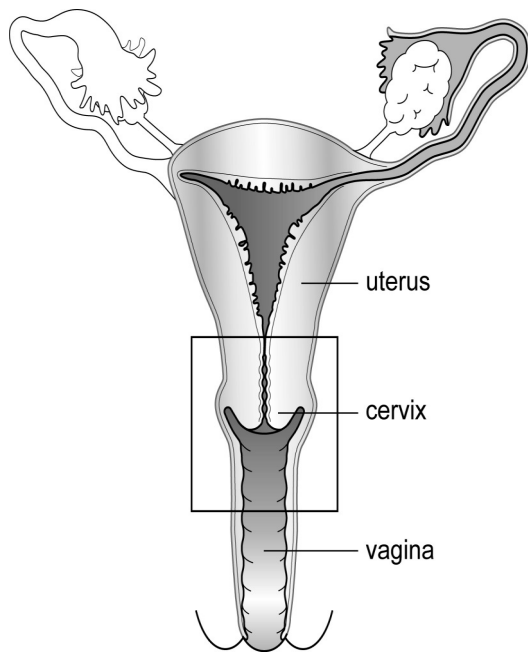
## What is loop diathermy?

This treatment uses an electric current to remove abnormal cells from your cervix. A local anaesthetic is used to numb your cervix, and the abnormal cells are then lifted off the cervix using a wire loop. (Lletz wire) (**see diagram on page 2**).

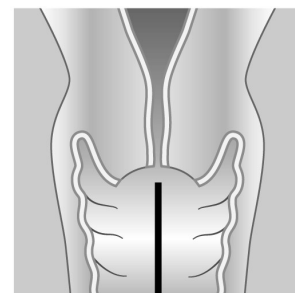
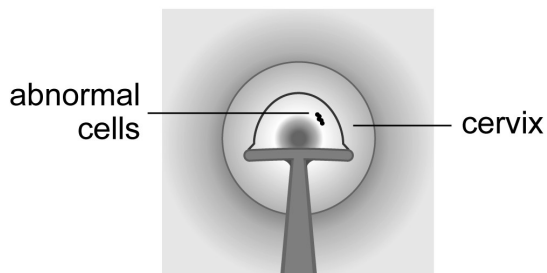
The examination and treatment last approximately 15 minutes. When the treatment has finished you will be given a sanitary pad (you may want to bring your own) and asked to rest for a short while before going home.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



Lletz wire



abnormal cells removed

**With thanks to Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust**

## Advice after loop diathermy

After this treatment, you may have blood-stained vaginal discharge, which can last up to four weeks. This is normal.

- You may have some period-like cramps as the anaesthetic wears off. Take your usual painkillers to relieve this discomfort.
- Do not use tampons for four weeks following this procedure (even if you have a period). Please use sanitary pads instead.
- You should not have intercourse for four weeks following treatment. This is to ensure that the area that has been treated can heal properly.
- Do not go swimming or have a bath for two to four weeks to help prevent infection.
- Your first period after the treatment may be heavier than usual.
- Avoid heavy lifting and strenuous exercise for four weeks to reduce the risk of bleeding.

If you have any heavy bleeding, which is not like a normal period, or if you have an offensive, smelly vaginal discharge, please contact your GP. Your GP will refer you back to the hospital for advice as necessary.

## Follow– up

We will inform both you and your GP of your results. If we are discharging you from our care, you will require a cervical smear and human papillomavirus (HPV) test at your GP surgery six months after your loop diathermy. If you are coming back for another colposcopy examination at the hospital (together with a smear and HPV test), an appointment for the Colposcopy Clinic will be enclosed with your results letter.

How we follow you up after this will depend on the results of your six month tests.



## Contact numbers

If you have any questions or concerns after you treatment, or if you have not had your results within 6 weeks please:

**Contact the secretaries to Colposcopy team between 9.00 am to 4.00pm on:**

0116 258 5068 or 0116 258 4167

**In an emergency, at all other times please call the Gynaecology Assessment Unit (GAU) for advice on:**

0116 258 6259

**Please note the GAU will not be able to give you your results from your investigations.**

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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જે તુમીં ઇચ જાદવારી કિમે હેર જામા વિચ ચાહુંદે હે, ઝાં વિચખા વચકે હેઠાં હિંતે ગદે નંબર 'હે ટૈલીફોન વચે।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

Previous reference:

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)