

### Gynaecology Investigations Unit.

You have been referred to the investigations unit by your GP or Gynaecology Consultant.

At this clinic you will see a consultant for a discussion of your problems before then going in to be examined.

### What will the examination consist of?

#### **A vaginal scan may be performed.**

This involves a small probe being gently placed into the vagina to give a good picture of the ovaries and lining of the womb.

Hysteroscopy. This may be performed in the clinic.

Hysteroscopy is a procedure that lets your doctor look inside your womb (uterus). This is done using a narrow tube-like instrument called a hysteroscope. The hysteroscope is very slim. It's carefully passed through the vagina and neck of the uterus (cervix) and into your uterus. The hysteroscope has a video camera inside which sends

pictures to a computer screen. This allows your doctor to check for any abnormalities in the lining of the uterus.

The hysteroscope has special channels which allow the doctor to pass various instruments into the uterus. This means that as well as being able to look inside the uterus, the doctor can perform certain procedures.

### Endometrial biopsy.

A biopsy may be taken from the lining of the womb (the endometrium).

A narrow tube will be passed through the cervix into the womb and remove some cells.

### How will I feel during and after the procedure?

Not everyone is the same. You may experience some or no side effects at all.

While the sample is being taken you may experience some cramping.

### Can I take pain killers to help with this pain?

**Yes-** you can take some painkillers one hour before your appointment. It is best to take Ibuprofen if you can. If you have a medical condition where you cannot take this drug take your normal painkiller such as paracetamol.

### Blood stained discharge.

If this occurs it is normal and will possibly last a few days. Do not use tampons, only towels.

### Resuming normal activity.

You can go back to work or follow normal activity following the procedure if you feel well enough. Occasionally the procedure can make you feel lightheaded and if this occurs the nursing staff may want to observe you until you feel better.

**Are there any complications?** Rare but can occur:

1. Strong smelling discharge
2. Pain after the procedure. This can happen up to two weeks following the procedure and may indicate an infection.. If you are worried seek advice from your GP.
3. Perforation of the womb. This is rare but if it is suspected you may be kept in hospital for observation

**What will happen after the procedure?**

If a biopsy has been taken it can take up to ten days for the results to be reviewed by your consultant.

Your consultant may make a further appointment for you or even write to you with the results.

Some ladies will need further investigations and may need a similar procedure done under a general anaesthetic. If this is required you will be contacted.

If you have any questions please contact the Gynaecology Specialist Nurse on 02476 153389 or 0798416109.



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