

Colposcopy Information

What is a colposcopy?

A colposcopy is a way of looking at the cervix through a special magnifying device called a colposcope. It shines a light onto the cervix and can greatly enlarge the normal view. The exam allows your doctor to find problems that cannot be seen by the eye alone.

Why is a colposcopy done?

A colposcopy is done when results of a pap smear indicate abnormal changes in the cells of the cervix. A colposcopy provides more information about the abnormal cells.

When is a biopsy done during a colposcopy?

During the procedure, a mild solution will be applied to the cervix. This liquid makes abnormal areas on the cervix easier to see. If abnormal areas are seen, your doctor may biopsy these areas. During a biopsy, a small piece of tissue is removed from the cervix. Cells may also be taken from the canal of the cervix.

What should you expect afterward?

If you have a colposcopy with a biopsy, you may have some soreness, light bleeding, or dark discharge for a few days. The dark discharge may occur due to the medication used to stop bleeding at the biopsy site. While the cervix heals, your doctor will advise you not to put anything into your vagina for a short time.

How is a colposcopy billed?

There are multiple charges associated with a colposcopy: procedure and pathology charges. There will be charge for the procedure your doctor performs in office. If biopsies are taken, there will be additional charges per biopsy for the tissue to be reviewed by a pathologist in a laboratory. If you have any questions about the cost of care, please speak with the front desk staff. They can discuss your insurance benefits and let you know what your cost will be for the procedure.