

Colposcopy



Hôpital général juif
Jewish General Hospital

If you have recently had an abnormal Pap test result, your health care provider may recommend a follow-up colposcopy procedure.

An abnormal cervical cancer screening (Pap test) result means that cells have been found on your cervix that do not look normal. Abnormal results are common and do not mean that you have cancer or precancerous cells. Follow-up is recommended to determine the type of cell changes.

What is colposcopy?

Colposcopy is a procedure used to examine your cervix and vagina. A doctor will use a special microscope called a colposcope to look for abnormalities. During the colposcopy, the doctor may take a biopsy from any areas that appear abnormal.

Is a colposcopy procedure painful?

The colposcopy itself should not be painful, but it may be uncomfortable. If a biopsy is taken during the procedure, you may experience pinching or cramping sensations.

What are the risks of having a colposcopy?

The risk of complications from colposcopy are small, however a biopsy can cause an infection or bleeding in rare instances

What happens after the colposcopy?

There may be some spotting if a biopsy was taken which should stop within 24-48 hours. If a tampon is used to protect from spotting, ensure it is removed three hours after insertion. If you experience further spotting another tampon can be inserted or a pad may be used.

What happens during my colposcopy?

- 1) The exam starts off much like a Pap test: a doctor will use an instrument called a speculum to gently exam the vaginal and cervix.
- 2) Vinegar or iodine may be applied to your cervix to make any abnormalities more visible.
- 3) The doctor will then take biopsy from your cervix for additional testing. The procedure is done in 5-10 minutes.

See a video about the colposcopy procedure:

<https://precare.ca/colpo/>

Understanding the results of your colposcopy exam

Low-Grade

Minor cell changes that often correct themselves.

My colposcopy results show low-grade cell changes (LSIL).

What should I do now?

Minor cell changes like LSIL often correct themselves. Treatment for LSIL is typically not needed. Your doctor will explain your colposcopy results and will let you know any next steps.

High-Grade

Cell changes that are pre-cancerous and need to be treated.

My colposcopy results show high-grade cell changes (HSIL 2 or 3).

What should I do next?

Your doctor will discuss the recommendation for a Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP), which can be performed in the colposcopy clinic. If not treated, over time, HSIL2 and HSIL3 may become cancerous.

When will I get my results?

Your colposcopy results will be available within 4-5 weeks and a doctor or nurse from the colposcopy clinic will contact you with any abnormal results with plans for the next steps. Normal results will be communicated with your referring doctor with recommendations about future PAP testing.

Where to find us

- Pavilion H, 3rd floor
- Enter from the Pavilion H entrance (5790 Côte-des-Neiges)
- Take the Pavilion H elevators to the 3rd floor
- Follow the signs to Colposcopy

OR

- Make your way to the Pavilion K lobby
- Follow the signs to Pavilion H
- You will enter Pavilion H on the 3rd floor
- Continue straight and follow the signs to Colposcopy

How to contact us:

514 340 7521