

Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP)

Gynaecology

You have been referred to us for a LEEP. This procedure may be needed because abnormal cells have been found on your cervix. These cells usually do not disappear on their own and may cause problems later. With a LEEP, the doctor removes these cells. The removed tissue is examined in a laboratory. In this folder you can read more about this treatment.

What is a Loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP)?

A LEEP is a treatment in which the doctor removes a thin layer of the cervix using a small metal loop that is heated with electric current. To use this current safely, a sticky pad is placed on your leg. This pad makes sure the electrical current is carried away in the correct way.

Before the treatment

Do not put oil or body lotion on your legs on the day of the procedure. If you do, the sticky pad may not stay in place. If you have any sensitivities or allergies, tell us before the treatment.

We advise you to bring someone with you to your appointment. After the procedure, you may have cramping pain in the lower abdomen. This can last for a few days. It can be helpful if someone can accompany you home.

The treatment

Before the examination begins, you will be asked to remove your underwear. You sit in the examination chair and place your legs in the supports. Then we place the sticky pad on your leg.

The doctor inserts a speculum into the vagina. The speculum is opened gently. The doctor applies a liquid to make the abnormal cells easier to see. You will receive an injection to numb the cervix. When the cervix is numb, you will not feel the treatment.

With the loop, the doctor removes a thin layer of tissue from the cervix. At the same time, the heat seals the small blood vessels. You may notice a burning smell. New, healthy cells will grow back in the area where the abnormal cells were removed.

Results

You will receive the results after two weeks. There are four possible outcomes: no abnormality, CIN1, CIN2 or CIN3.

After the procedure, you remain under follow-up for two years. You will have smear tests at three moments: after 6 months, after 1 year, and after 2 years. If all results are good, you will then return to the national cervical cancer screening programme. You will be invited for this automatically.

Duration of the treatment

The procedure takes about 20 minutes.

After the treatment

After the treatment, you may have some bleeding for a few days. This is normal. After that, you may still have bloody discharge for a few weeks. This is usually light and may sometimes have an odour.

Most wounds heal within two to three weeks. Around one to two weeks after the procedure, the discharge may contain a little more blood again. This happens because the scab on the wound comes off. This is a normal part of healing.

If you have pain after the treatment, you may use paracetamol. Use sanitary pads. Do not use tampons and do not have sex as long as you still have discharge.

Possible complications and side effects

Contact the clinic if you:

- Have a fever above 38 degrees and increasing stomach or pelvic pain
- Have abnormal vaginal discharge
- Lose more blood than during a normal period

Resuscitation

All patients at DC Klinieken will be resuscitated in an emergency situation. If you have a "do not resuscitate" statement, or if you have discussed with your doctor that you do not want to be resuscitated, it is important that you inform us.

Emergency after visiting DC Klinieken

In case of an emergency, call: 088 0100 998.

Insurance

DC Klinieken has contracts with all health insurers. This means that almost all care is reimbursed, just like in the hospital. You do need a referral from your (general) doctor. Please be aware of your own deductible. More information about reimbursements and possible exceptions can be found at: www.dcklinieken.nl/vergoedingen.

Questions

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, go to: www.dcklinieken.nl/contact or contact our Service and Information Centre at 088 0100 900.