

Loop Electrical Excision Procedure (LEEP)

Patient Information

A LEEP is one type of treatment that is used to remove an area of abnormal cells from the cervix. The goal is to remove these cells before they could become cancerous. The cervix is the organ below the uterus that connects the uterus to the vagina. The opening of the cervix can be seen inside the vagina.

What to Expect

Your gynecologist begins the procedure by inserting a speculum (the instrument that is inserted when a Pap test is taken) into your vagina, so that the cervix and the area of abnormal cells can be seen. Local anesthetic, or freezing, is injected into the cervix. Your gynecologist removes the layer of the cervix that contains the entire area where the abnormal cells have grown. This is done using a small wire loop and electrocautery machine. The electrocautery machine makes a humming sound during the brief procedure and is then used to stop any bleeding after. A grounding pad is placed on your thigh to ensure your safety. The portion of the cervix that is removed is sent to the laboratory for examination.

The entire appointment should take about 20 minutes.

After the LEEP

The LEEP may cause some abdominal cramping after the freezing wears off. Some bleeding may occur and should become less as the days go on. During the procedure the only discomfort that should be felt is caused from the speculum in the vagina.

It takes about 4 weeks for the cervix to heal. In about 5 to 13% of women, the abnormal cells come back. **Follow up appointments and colposcopies are very important** to ensure all of the abnormal cells have been removed and do not come back.

If you have questions:

Call the Women's Health Centre at (306) 766-0586 or call your gynecologist.