



Colposcopy Explanation

United Health Professionals, Inc.

304-697-2035

Definition:

A Colposcopy is an examination of the female genital area with an instrument called a colposcope. A colposcope is essentially a microscope mounted on a stand. With proper illumination, it magnifies up to twenty times normal size. This magnification makes it easier to see the surface of the cervix and vagina.

Procedure:

A *Colposcopy* is used in conjunction with a Pap smear to help diagnose possible problems of the reproductive organs, primarily the vagina and cervix. The colposcope may pinpoint areas of abnormality and guide your health care provider to obtain the very best possible information.

Colposcopy is virtually pain free. If a suspicious area is noted, your health care provider may wish to take a biopsy. Should a biopsy be needed it can be done in the office, avoiding hospitalization and more extensive surgery. Mild to moderate discomfort may be experienced if a biopsy is required. You may wish to take a mild pain reliever about 30 minutes prior to your exam to ease any discomfort.

You will lie on your back with your feet in stirrups just as if you are having a regular pelvic exam. Your health care provider will insert the same type of speculum that is used in any vaginal exam. Then he will bring the colposcope to the level of your vagina. The bright light will allow him to see clearly inside the vagina as far as the cervix (opening to the uterus). Sometimes chemicals can be used to improve the localization of abnormal spots on the cervix. If a biopsy is needed it is done at this time.

Follow-up:

The frequency of colposcopic examinations is determined by your condition and your provider's discretion. Proper follow-up is essential to your health. Please follow your health care provider's recommendations carefully.

Do not have intercourse, douche or use tampons for 10 days following your colposcopy to give your cervix time to heal. It is not uncommon to experience some vaginal bleeding. If bleeding occurs that is heavier than a period or if you develop a temperature above 100.4 degrees, call the office and ask to speak to your nurse.

Concerns:

Your health is important to us. If you are concerned or have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. You can reach our office at 304-697-2035. After hours, the same number reaches our answering service. If we do not return your call in a reasonable amount of time, please call again or go to the emergency room if you feel it is necessary.