



Colposcopy

What is colposcopy?

Colposcopy may be recommended by your physician if your pap smear was abnormal. Colposcopy can be done at either the St. Anthony's or St. Luke's office. During the exam we will utilize a microscope to visualize the surface of the cervix. The exam lasts longer than a traditional pap smear and is usually associated with minimal discomfort. You may want to take ibuprofen prior to your arrival.

Will I need a biopsy?

The surface of the cervix is coated with acetic acid (white vinegar) – this will allow us to visualize any abnormal areas. If your physician feels an area is abnormal he/she will perform a small biopsy of the area for further evaluation. This is usually reported as a momentary “pinch” and is not usually associated with long term discomfort. If a biopsy is performed the results will take several days and your physician will call you with your results.

What can I expect after?

Often, we will utilize medication to stop bleeding from the biopsy site – this may cause brownish/black discharge. You will commonly experience spotting for a few days following your procedure. There may be a watery discharge for several days to a week after. At no point should you experience bleeding heavy like a period.

Will I have to have repeat exams?

You will be given instructions by your physician on when you are to return for repeat pap smears. Once and a while – repeating your colposcopy may become necessary.

Post-colposcopy Instructions

- No intercourse for two weeks
- Nothing in the vagina for two weeks – no tampons!
- No soaking in a tub for two weeks