



Cryocautery

What is cryocautery?

Cryocautery is the freezing of the cells of the cervix so that abnormal ones will slough off and new, healthy cells will grow back.

Why do you need cryocautery?

If your pap smear returned abnormal you have most likely already experienced a colposcopy. Some pap smear abnormalities may be watched over time. If your physician has recommended cryocautery he/she is more concerned about the abnormality progressing over time. It is important to remember that these changes if left untreated may ultimately lead to a cervical cancer. At this point, it is imperative that you understand you do not have cancer.

What does the treatment consist of?

The treatment will be done at the St. Anthony's office. It involves visualizing your cervix with the speculum and using a probe placed over the cervix to freeze the surface for approximately three minutes. It is common to experience cramping during the procedure that usually only lasts a short time following completion. You may take ibuprofen before your appointment.

Post-cryocautery Instructions

- No intercourse for two weeks
- Nothing in the vagina for two weeks – no tampons!
- Watery discharge is very common for the first two weeks
- Some spotting may also occur
- Persistent bleeding should be reported to the office

Is this the only procedure I will need?

Cryocautery treatment is successful in 90% of the women treated. Your physician will tell you when to return for repeat pap smear screening. This is usually three to four months after your procedure.