

**Patient  
Information**

# Endometrial biopsy

## Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about an endometrial biopsy, what to expect after the procedure and when you will receive the results.

## What is an endometrial biopsy?

Endometrial biopsy is a sample of tissue taken from the lining of your womb (endometrium). The sample will be sent to the laboratory to be examined under a microscope to look for abnormalities. You may have had abnormal bleeding or a scan that indicated the need for biopsy.

## How is the biopsy taken?

A thin flexible instrument (similar to a straw) is gently inserted through your cervix (the neck of the womb) to extract a small sample of the womb lining.

## Why do I need this procedure?

Your doctor may have advised you to have an endometrial biopsy to check for any abnormal cells or signs of cancer. This was because you may have one of the following symptoms:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Heavy or prolonged periods
- Bleeding between periods
- Bleeding or discharge after the menopause
- Unexpected bleeding on HRT

The results of the biopsy will allow your doctor to offer you the appropriate treatment for your condition.

## Results

We usually receive the results of the biopsy within 6 weeks. We will then write to you. The letter will contain the results of the biopsy and inform you if a follow up appointment is needed. Your GP will also receive a copy of the results.

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Department

Gynaecology

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May 2028

**Patient  
Information****Risks and side effects**

This procedure is generally safe.

It is normal to have a watery, blood-stained discharge or spotting for the next 24 hours. This will be followed by light bleeding for 2 to 3 weeks but it can sometimes go on for about 6 weeks. However, if the bleeding is heavy and you pass a lot of clots and have to change pads often, then please get in touch. The telephone number is listed at the end of this leaflet. Alternatively, contact your consultant's secretary or GP for advice.

In rare cases, you may develop an infection. Due to the risk of infection, it is recommended that you only use sanitary towels (not tampons) while you are bleeding.

For most women, the pain and discomfort experienced during the procedure, passes quite quickly. The pain can sometimes feel like period type cramps which can be sharp and may persist for a few hours before settling.

Very rarely, dull or moderate discomfort and pain can persist for a few weeks. To ease the pain, please take 2 x 500 mg tablet of paracetamol up to 4 times a day.

When you feel ready, once the bleeding has stopped, you can resume sexual intercourse.

**After the biopsy**

You will be able to go home. You may be able to go to work if you are feeling well enough and are also able to drive after the procedure.

You can continue with your normal activities such as having a bath or shower, exercise and driving.

## Patient Information

### Contact information

If you need non-urgent advice, you should contact:

#### Gynaecology Outpatients

Tel: 0300 422 6246

Please listen to the message then leave your name, hospital number or date of birth and your contact details. A member of the team will call you back. Messages are picked up during office hours, Monday to Friday.

If your concern is urgent, please contact your GP or NHS 111 for further advice.

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## Making a choice

### Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.



### Ask 3 Questions

To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you are asked to make a choice about your healthcare.

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation

\* Ask 3 Questions is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial. Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85



<https://aqua.nhs.uk/resources/shared-decision-making-case-studies/>