Cone Biopsy
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Why is a cone biopsy done?
Cone biopsies are used to diagnose and treat abnormal cervical tissue. Cone biopsies can occasionally diagnose invasive cervical cancer. The tissue taken out goes to the lab and is looked at closely under a microscope.

What happens during a cone biopsy?
A cone biopsy is most often done under general anesthesia as an outpatient procedure. This means that you will have the biopsy completed in the operating room while you are asleep. You will not be admitted to the hospital overnight unless there is a special reason. A cone-shaped section of the abnormal tissue from your cervix will be taken out. The procedure takes about 15 minutes.
What can I expect after I have a cone biopsy?

• You should plan to be off work for the entire day of the procedure. You should let your employer know that it is possible you may need a second day off.

• You may have mild cramping for a few days. You can take your usual medications for discomfort.

• You may have some spotting or bleeding that is similar to that of a menstrual period for up to 4 weeks. You may also notice black or brown discharge (spotting) during this time.

• Do not put anything into the vagina for 6 weeks while the cervix is healing. This includes having sex, tampons, douches, and other objects.

• Use sanitary pads only for your period during these 6 weeks.

• Avoid heavy lifting or straining for 10 days after your cone biopsy.
What are the risks?

- Infection of the cervix (this is rare).
- Narrowing of the cervix (this is rare).
- Heavy bleeding.
- Slight increased risk of delivering a baby before it has reached full term (premature or pre-term birth).

Do I need follow up care?

Yes. Your doctor will let you know when they would like to see you after your procedure. You are followed for at least two visits or until your Pap smears are normal again. When you are discharged from the clinic and return to your family doctor, it is very important to remember to have a Pap test every year.

When should I call the Clinic?

Do not hesitate to call the Clinic if you have any questions or concerns before or after your procedure. Call us if you have any of these signs:

- Fever or chills.
- Increasing pelvic pain/cramps that do not go away, or that go away and come back several days later.
- Bad-smelling vaginal discharge that you can smell through your clothing or that you think others can notice.
When should I go to the Emergency Department?

- If you have bleeding that is heavier than a normal period that does not get better with rest (i.e., soaking pads with blood more quickly than usual for you).
- If you have signs of infection and you cannot reach the Colposcopy Clinic.

Appointments and questions

To confirm or re-schedule a clinic appointment, please call (902) 473-6112. If you have any questions or concerns, you may call the Clinic.

**Clinic Nurse:**
(902) 473-4181
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Colposcopy Coordinator:**
(902) 473-7445
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Your call may not be returned the same day, depending on staffing.

If you have an EMERGENCY, call your family doctor, or call 811 (Nova Scotia Telecare Service), or go to the Emergency Department.
If you have any questions, please ask.
We are here to help you.

Notes:


