

LEEP

Cells on the cervix grow and shed all the time. Sometimes these cells change and become abnormal. This may be an early warning that a cancer may occur. When tests show that you have abnormal cells on your cervix, your doctor may suggest the loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP). LEEP is used to remove the abnormal cells from your cervix.

The LEEP Procedure

LEEP uses a thin wire loop that acts like a scalpel (surgical knife). An electric current pass through the loop, which cuts away a thin layer of the surface cells.

- This procedure should be done when you're not having your menstrual period. This allows a better view of the cervix
- It is done in the doctor's office or a surgical day clinic

What to expect:

- During the procedure you will lie on your back with your feet in stirrups
- The doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina in the same way as for a pelvic exam
- A solution is applied to your cervix to show the abnormal cells
- Colposcopy will be used to magnify the cervix for surgery
- Your cervix will be numbed with a local anesthetic. This is given through a needle attached to a syringe. You will remain awake during the procedure. You may feel a dull ache or cramp
- The loop is inserted through the vagina to the cervix.
- After the procedure, A special paste may be applied to your cervix to stop any bleeding
- The tissue that is removed will be studied in a lab to confirm the diagnosis

Risks

Although problems seldom occur with LEEP, there can be complications

- You may feel faint during the procedure
- You may have bleeding that requires electrocautery to control
- There is a risk for infection

Recovery

It may take a few weeks for your cervix to heal. While your cervix heals, you may have:

- Vaginal bleeding (less than a normal period)
- Mild cramping
- A brownish-black discharge (from the paste used) that can last up to two weeks

Post-Procedure Instructions

- Do not place anything inside a vagina for a few weeks, no sex, tampons, or douching
- Take ibuprofen 600mg every six hours as needed for discomfort

Contact your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Heavy bleeding (more than your normal period)
- Severe abdominal pain
- Fever (more than 100.4°F)
- Take ibuprofen 600mg every six hours as needed for discomfort