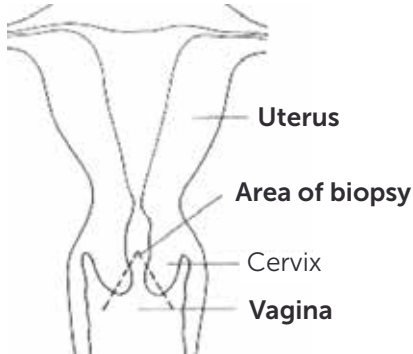




What is a cone biopsy?

A cone biopsy operation involves cutting out the area of abnormal cells from your cervix. The area removed from the cervix is shaped like a cone.



Why am I having this type of treatment?

The main reasons for this type of treatment are:

- all or some of the abnormal cell area is high up in the opening of the cervix, out of view
- there is a suspicion of an early cancer
- the smear is positive but colposcopy/ biopsy is negative.

Some important points

- If you are pregnant, or think you may be, get a pregnancy test and if positive please ring 07 839 8648 to postpone.
- If your period is due on the day of your operation, please ring 07 839 8648 to cancel, as a cone biopsy is best taken if you are not bleeding. (We can give your appointment time to another woman if you tell us early enough.) However, if you are bleeding most of the time, the cone biopsy will need to be done regardless.

Does the operation hurt?

This operation is carried out under general anaesthetic so you will feel no discomfort. You may have some period-like pains and backache after you wake. Ask the nurse for some pain relief if you require it.

How long does the operation take?

The operation usually takes 15 - 20 minutes.

How long do I stay in hospital?

After your operation you will be taken to Day of Surgery Admission or Elective Surgery Short Stay. Your consultant will usually allow you to go home later on the same day. If vaginal packing (usually a gauze strip) has been inserted to help control bleeding, or an indwelling catheter used, you may be required to stay overnight. These will be removed in the morning prior to your discharge at around 10am.

What occurs before my operation?

- The date and time of your operation will be arranged via the admission clerk. She will contact you one to two weeks before the operation. Her contact number is 07 839 8648.
- It is important not to eat for six hours prior to your operation, if so the operation will be cancelled. The reason for

this is to reduce the risk of anaesthetic complications, e.g. vomiting.

- You are advised not to bring valuables e.g. rings and watches into the hospital. Wedding rings may be taped over. You may wish to bring some reading material with you as there may be a wait before the operation.
- Just prior to your operation you will be asked to change into a theatre gown, and after discussion with an anaesthetist you may be offered tablets to help relax you before your operation.
- General anaesthetic is routine. In theatre an anaesthetic will be injected into your arm or hand by an anaesthetist so that you go to sleep for your operation.

What happens after my operation?

- When you wake up in the recovery room there may be an oxygen mask on your face.
- If the operative bleeding is slow to stop at the end of your operation, you may wake up with a drip in your arm and a pack (consisting of gauze bandage-like material) in your vagina to control the bleeding. There may also be a thin tube (catheter) in your bladder to drain urine. The drip, pack and catheter will be removed next morning.
- You may have some period-like pains, if so ask the nurse for some pain relief.
- The anaesthetic may make you feel a little nauseated for a short time.
- You will be allowed to eat and drink after your operation if there are no problems.

What problems can occur?

A cone biopsy may affect the function of the cervix during the pregnancy resulting in an increased risk of late miscarriage and premature labour. This is rare nowadays, it does not cause ordinary miscarriages in early pregnancy, however if you become pregnant, please see your GP or lead maternity carer (LMC) to be referred to Women's Health Antenatal Clinic in your first trimester. You should be seen at 14 weeks gestation for an ultrasound. Another pregnancy complication is cervical stenosis (narrowing of the cervical canal) with slow dilation of the cervix in labour.

On discharge from the unit, make sure you:

- have someone to drive you home, you must not drive for 24 hours after an anaesthetic
- have and understand the pamphlet 'Information for women following a cone biopsy'
- feel comfortable and your vaginal bleeding is only slight in amount

A clinic appointment will be posted to you for a six month follow-up.