



DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO
34730 Bob Wilson Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92134-5000

LOOP ELECTROSURGICAL EXCISION PROCEDURE (LEEP)

What is LEEP?

LEEP is the abbreviation for Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure, which is the removal of abnormal tissue from the cervix. The cervix is the opening to the uterus (womb).

WHEN IS IT PERFORMED?

A LEEP is performed if an area of abnormal cervical cells (high grade dysplasia or CIN 2-3) is found after a colposcopy and biopsy of the cervix.

HOW IS A LEEP PERFORMED?

A speculum is placed into the vagina and a local anesthetic is used to numb the cervix. The doctor will use wire loop to remove abnormal tissue from your cervix. The total procedure takes approximately 20 minutes, but the removal of the tissue takes only a few seconds. The procedure is done in the office.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

After the procedure, you may experience mild cramping for 24-48 hours that you can take over the counter medications like Motrin and Tylenol. For several days, you probably will have a bloody or dark brown/black vaginal discharge that may have a slight odor.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THE LEEP PROCEDURE?

Most women do not experience any serious side effects from this procedure. However, very rarely, complications can occur. These include damage to the vaginal walls, excessive bleeding, or pelvic

infection (particularly if you have sex before the cervix is healed). There is also the risk of scarring of the cervix. There may be a slight risk of short cervix, resulting in premature delivery with a subsequent pregnancy. The risk that this treatment will fail to cure the problem is less than 10%. If the condition is left untreated, it may progress to cancer. **For this reason, it is essential that you keep your appointments for follow-up care.**

PREPARING FOR YOUR PROCEDURE:

Please remember to schedule your appointment when you will be between menstrual periods, so you will not be bleeding at the time of your procedure.

Do not have unprotected intercourse for two weeks prior to the procedure.

Do not have intercourse, douche, or put any creams or medications in your vagina for 2 days before your procedure.

You may have some cramping following the procedure. Before you come to the appointment, you may want to take 600mg of Ibuprofen (eg. 3 Motrin IB, 3 Advil, 3 Nuprin), so you will be more comfortable following the procedure. Please let the doctor know at the appointment if you took any medications recently.

Please arrive 10-15 minutes early with a full bladder, as you will need to provide a urine sample prior to the LEEP.

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please let the clerk know when you check-in for your appointment.

THINGS TO REMEMBER AFTER HAVING A LEEP:

Use sanitary pads only. Do not use tampons for 2 weeks after the procedure.

You should not have intercourse for 2 weeks.

You should never douche or wash inside the vagina. The vagina is self cleaning.

Oral pain relievers such as Tylenol or Motrin may be used for cramps.

CALL THE DYSPLASIA CLINIC AT 619-532-7040 OR 619-532-7199 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ANY UNUSUAL OR UNEXPECTED SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS:

- Heavy vaginal bleeding (using more than one thick sanitary pad every 2 hours) when you are not expecting your period
- Severe lower abdominal pain
- Fever greater than 100 F (Take your temperature with a thermometer.)
- Foul smelling vaginal discharge

If you have a problem that you feel is an emergency and the clinic is closed, please go to the Naval Medical Center San Diego Emergency Room for evaluation.

PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND YOUR FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT IN 2 WEEKS TO HAVE YOUR CERVIX ASSESSED FOR HEALING.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE FOLLOW-UP PAP SMEARS AT THE APPROPRIATE INTERVAL AFTER HAVING A LOOP ELECTROSURGICAL EXCISION PROCEDURE DONE (USUALLY AT 6 MONTHS OR 12 MONTHS).

**NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO DYSPLASIA CLINIC
619-532-7040 OR 619-532-7199**