

# **PILGRIM SHORES**

## **Obstetrics, Gynecology & Midwifery**

### **POST COLPOSCOPY AND BIOPSY INFORMATION SHEET**

#### General Information

As has been explained to you, colposcopy and biopsy are used to look for precancerous conditions (called dysplasia) of the cervix and vagina. During this testing procedure, the cervix and vagina are magnified, cleansed, and treated with solutions to direct biopsies. During the biopsy, a small piece of tissue is removed and sent for analysis by a pathologist to determine the presence or absence of dysplasia. We would like you to be aware of the following instructions regarding the immediate time period after your colposcopy and biopsy.

1. - Bleeding - It is normal to have some spotting after a colposcopy. Normally, the spotting will taper off in the immediate 12-hour period following biopsy. Other than minor spotting, there is sometimes a blackish discharge. The black discharge sometimes comes out as a "clump". Heavy bright red bleeding is abnormal. Should this occur, you are asked to call our office to make arrangements for an examination.
2. - Infection - Ordinarily, the cervix is highly resistant to infection. Occasionally, however, the cervix will become infected after a biopsy. An infection will usually develop (if it does) 1 to 3 days after your biopsy. Infection may show up as a thick cloudy vaginal discharge that often may have a bad odor. Furthermore, pain in the vagina or lower pelvic area may signify infection, as may fever or chills. Should any of these symptoms occur you should call our office immediately so that an examination can be arranged.
3. - Pelvic Pain - During and immediately following cervical biopsy, some patients may notice menstrual-like cramps. Ibuprofen or Aleve will typically alleviate the cramping. These pains are usually gone by the day after the biopsy. Any persistent symptoms should prompt a call to our office,
4. - Intercourse - Normally the cervix or vagina heals very quickly after a small biopsy. To allow the cervix to heal completely and become resistant to local irritation or infection, you are asked to abstain from intercourse for 7 days after the biopsy. Beyond the 7 days, unless there is a complication, intercourse can be resumed without problems.

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5. - Discharge - Ordinarily, there is a discharge after colposcopy and biopsy which can be fairly heavy for the first day or two- The discharge is often dark, occasionally slightly bloody, but usually without a bad odor. During the biopsy procedure, medicines are applied to the cervix to control bleeding which eventually will pass and can have the appearance of coffee grounds. This is normal for the first day or two after your biopsy, but would be abnormal beyond that. Should your discharge become heavy or remain bloody, especially with a bad odor, please call the office so that an appointment can be made.

6. You are asked to notify our office immediately should you change your phone number or move- this will ensure we can let you know the results of your biopsy. Remember, colposcopy with biopsy is not a treatment of your condition. It is important that you return to the office so we can discuss your results and recommend appropriate follow-up and/or treatment.