



Colposcopy

Patient Information Handout

A **colposcopy** is a simple examination that allows your doctor to closely examine the cervix and identify any abnormal areas.

You have been referred for a colposcopy because of one or more of the following:

- An abnormal cervical screening test result
- An abnormal appearance of the cervix
- Bleeding after intercourse
- A vulval abnormality

The examination helps your doctor determine whether any treatment is required.

BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

Preparing for Your Appointment

- Please avoid booking a colposcopy during your period where possible.
- If you expect to have your period on the day of your appointment, please contact FBW to discuss and reschedule if required.
- You may wish to wear a long skirt or dress to make changing easier.

You are welcome to bring a friend or family member with you. Depending on the treatment room, they may be able to stay with you during the examination.

Please allow approximately **1 hour** for your appointment.
The examination itself usually takes around **15 minutes**.

DURING YOUR EXAMINATION

- You will be asked to remove your lower clothing and positioned comfortably on the examination bed.
- A speculum will be inserted into the vagina, similar to a cervical screening test.
- A colposcope (a specialised microscope) will be used to closely examine your cervix.
- The colposcope does **not** touch you or enter the vagina.
- Solutions will be applied to the cervix to highlight any abnormal areas.
- If an abnormal area is identified, a small biopsy may be taken.

A biopsy may feel like a brief pinch or sting but is not usually painful.

AFTER YOUR EXAMINATION

Results



GYNAECOLOGY PLUS
FERTILITY + BODY + WELLNESS

- Your doctor may be able to discuss their findings immediately after the examination.
- If a Biopsy is taken, results can take up to **2 weeks**.
- A definite diagnosis will not be available until biopsy results are returned.
- You will be contacted by your doctor or nursing team with your results and any follow-up plan.

Recovery

Most patients can return to their normal routine after a colposcopy.

If a biopsy is taken:

- Mild blood-stained or brown discharge may occur for a few days.
- Use a sanitary pad if required.
- Avoid sexual intercourse for up to **5 days** to allow the biopsy site to heal.

PREGNANCY

If you are pregnant, please advise FBW at the time of booking.

FBW does not perform colposcopy procedures during pregnancy. Your doctor will discuss the appropriate timing and referral options with you if a colposcopy is required during pregnancy.

WHEN TO CONTACT US

Contact FBW if you have concerns following your procedure or if symptoms are unexpected.

FBW Gynaecology Plus (Business Hours)

8297 2822

After Hours:

Contact your GP or Ashford Emergency Department
8375 5205