

If you have any questions
or concerns, please contact:

Gynaecology Fast Track Clinic
Tuesdays to Fridays
01935 384454
07557 313816

Colposcopy
Mondays to Thursdays
01935 384622

Jasmine Ward
Weekends and evenings
01935 384301

**If you need this leaflet
in another format, eg.
large print or a different
language, please ask a
member of staff.**

Yeovil District Hospital
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Vulval biopsy under local anaesthetic

Gynaecology department

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yeovilhospital.nhs.uk

 **Yeovil Hospital**
Healthcare

What is this procedure?

This type of biopsy involves taking a small amount of skin tissue from the vulva so that the cells can be looked at by a pathologist and a more accurate diagnosis made. This will determine what further treatment, if any, will be needed.

The procedure itself may be uncomfortable. We recommend that you take some mild pain relief, eg. Ibuprofen or Paracetamol, in case you are uncomfortable following the procedure.

What to expect during the procedure

You will be fully awake whilst the biopsy is taken but will be given an injection of local anaesthetic to 'numb' the area.

Please let us know if you have any allergies to medication.

A small piece of skin (about the size of a match head) is removed. Moncels solution (a glue type preparation) or dissolvable sutures will be used to stop any bleeding.

A panty liner will be provided to protect your underwear.

After the procedure

You will be asked to rest in the waiting room for 20 minutes or so following the procedure and a hot drink will be provided.

The clinic staff will arrange an appointment for you to return for the results of the biopsy or the consultant may decide to write to you with the result.

At home

The numbing effect of the local anaesthetic will wear off after four hours. If you have any discomfort or pain, then an analgesic (painkiller) such as Paracetamol should be effective.

Sitting on cold tea bags or a compress of cold tea may be beneficial as the tannin in tea has soothing properties.

Avoid hot baths for at least 24 hours, but showers are fine.

Generally, this type of biopsy is a very safe procedure, but there are a few risks or complications that can arise, as with any medical procedure.

You should contact your own GP if you experience any of the following:

- An offensive/smelly discharge
- The wound becomes red, inflamed or painful

Unfortunately, not all biopsies are successful. This may be because, despite taking every possible care, the piece of tissue which has actually been obtained is normal tissue rather than abnormal. Alternatively, although abnormal tissue has been obtained, it may not be enough for the pathologist to make a definite diagnosis. The consultant in charge of your care may decide that another biopsy is required.