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### **Perimenopausal bleeding**

In 90% of patients bleeding after the menopause (> 1 year without a period) as well as irregular bleeding/periods before the menopause (40-50 years) is no cause for concern. In less than 10% of ladies with postmenopausal bleeding this may be a sign of cancer of the lining of the womb/uterus. In order to exclude this small chance of cancer, we usually recommend taking a small biopsy from the lining of the womb in the clinic and in addition performing an internal ultrasound scan. The scan will measure the thickness of the lining of the womb. Should the lining be thin, less than 4mm, then it is very unlikely that cancer of the womb will be present. Equally if the lining of the womb is greater than 4mm and the biopsy is normal, again it is very unlikely that cancer of the womb is present.

Sometimes it is impossible to obtain a good sample biopsy from the lining of the womb either because the lining of the womb is very thin or because the neck of the womb is too tight to allow the passage of the biopsy probe in the clinic. In these circumstances, we may ask you to re-attend for a hysteroscopy (looking up into the womb with a telescope through the vagina, usually with you asleep under a general anaesthetic, although it can be done with you awake if you so wish).

I hope you find the above information helpful but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

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