

ABNORMAL PAP SURGERY - LEEP

WHAT IS LEEP?

A LEEP (or loop electrosurgical excision procedure) is a surgery to remove abnormal cells of the cervix when there is concern they are precancerous.

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE PERFORMED?

Our office performs LEEP at the outpatient surgery center while you are in a twilight sleep. This procedure usually takes 20-30 minutes, but you will spend half a day in the surgery center.

The LEEP is performed during a pelvic exam – there are no incisions on the abdomen. Our surgeon uses a hot wire loop to cut out the abnormal tissue on the outside of the cervix. About a quarter of the cervix is removed, which is about the size of the tip of your finger up to the first knuckle. A sample of the tissue inside the cervical canal is also taken. All tissue is sent to pathology to confirm all abnormal cells have been removed.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR LEEP?

For at least 24 hours before surgery, you should not put anything in the pelvis:

- Douche
- Tampons
- Vaginal medications
- Have sex
- Go into a pool or bathtub (shower is okay)

On the day of surgery, you will need to fast (nothing to eat or drink). You will not take any supplements or medications, unless your surgeon tells you it is okay to do so. You will need someone to drive you to and from the outpatient surgery center.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT DURING RECOVERY?

You will need to arrange for someone to stay with you the night of your surgery and to help around the house the day after surgery. Most people feel good enough after 2-3 days to return to work. Over-the-counter pain medications will be helpful.

Overall, it is an easy recovery. You will have brown or black, funny smelling discharge after surgery due to the solution placed on the cervix during surgery. You will need to wear a sanitary pad until the discharge stops. You cannot put anything in the vagina or get your heart rate up (exercise) until the discharge stops.