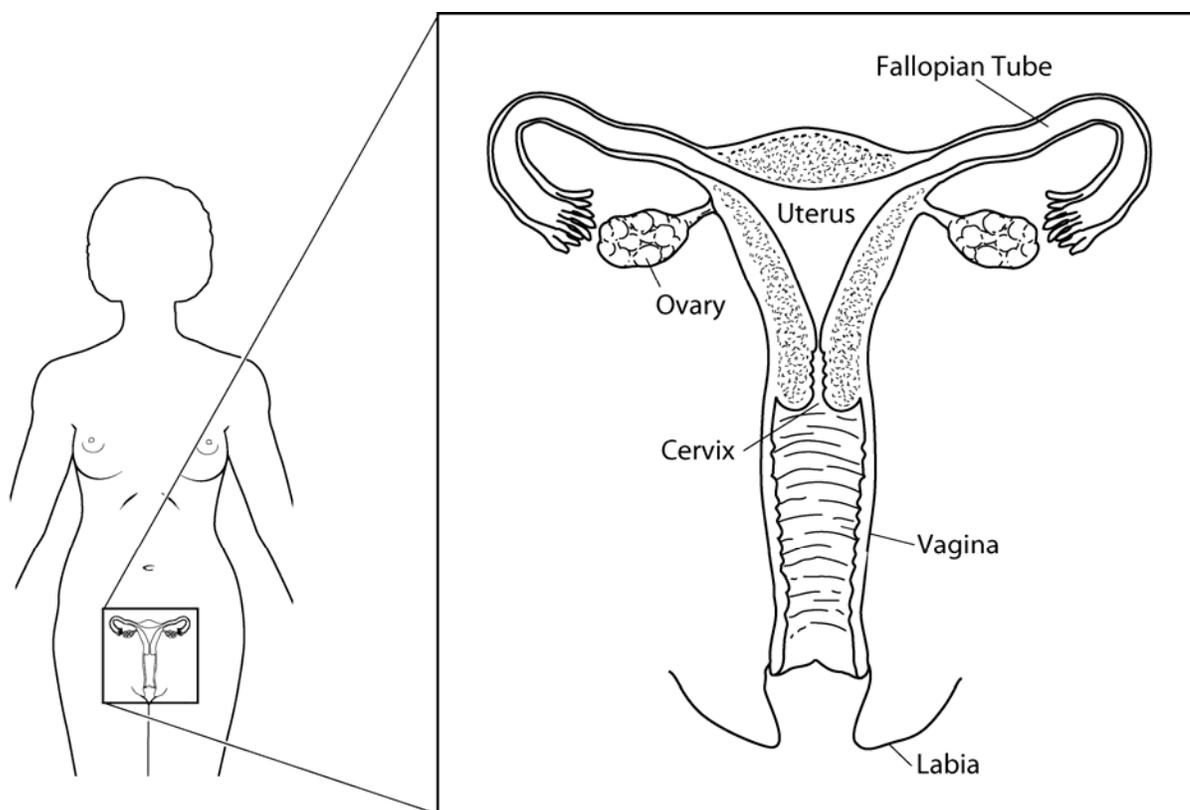


# Colposcopy

A colposcopy is a test done to check your vagina and cervix for cells that are not normal. You may have a colposcopy if a pap smear shows cells that need to be checked further. The doctor uses a magnifying scope to check the tissue of the vagina and cervix. A small tissue sample, called a biopsy, may be removed to be checked in the lab.

**Arrive on time for your test.** The test takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Plan to be here about 2 hours.



## To Prepare

- Do not schedule your test during your menstrual period if possible.
- Do not have vaginal intercourse, use tampons or douche 1 to 2 days before your test.

- Take an ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) tablet before going to your appointment. Do not use ibuprofen if you are pregnant.

### **During the Test**

- You may wear a hospital gown.
- You are helped onto the exam table. Lie down on your back and put your feet in the stirrups.
- A metal speculum is placed in your vagina to hold the walls of your vagina open. This helps your doctor to see your cervix.
- Your cervix may be covered with a weak vinegar solution to make the cells that are not normal show up. This may tingle or sting.
- The doctor checks your vagina and cervix for cells that are not normal.
- If your doctor wants to take tissue samples from the cervix, you will feel some pain or strong cramps. This will go away in about 1 minute.
- Any bleeding is stopped with pressure and a chemical solution.

### **Your Care at Home**

- Stay quiet and rest for 24 hours.
- Take ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) every 4 hours, if needed, for cramping or pain. Do not use ibuprofen if you are pregnant.
- If you had a biopsy, you may have a small amount of bloody vaginal discharge for a day. You may wear a pad.
- **Do not** have sexual intercourse, use tampons or douche until bleeding stops.
- You may take a shower. Do not take a tub bath for 3 days. This increases your chance for infection.

**Call your doctor right away if you have:**

- A large amount of bleeding where you soak a pad in an hour
- Severe abdominal cramps or pain
- Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C
- Vaginal discharge that has a strange odor

**Follow Up**

A follow up visit will be scheduled for you. At this appointment, your doctor will talk to you about your test results and discuss treatment if needed.

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**