

THE EINHAUS GROUP FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
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I NEED A COLPOSCOPY

WHAT IS A COLPOSCOPY?

Colposcopy is a way to look at your cervix. The cervix is the opening of your uterus (womb). The exam uses a special instrument. The instrument is called a colposcope.

WHY DO I NEED THIS EXAM?

This exam is sometimes needed after a Pap smear. A Pap smear looks for changes in the cervix. Some changes can mean cancer is starting. It is important to learn more about these changes. This exam can help.

HOW IS THE EXAM DONE?

- * You will lie on an exam table. You will place your feet in footrests.
- * The instrument used for your pap, a speculum will be inserted into your vagina. The walls of your vagina will be pressed open with the instrument.
- * The colposcope, which magnifies your cervix, is placed in front of your vagina. The health care provider looks through the colposcope to see your cervix and in this way chooses some spots to biopsy. The colposcope does not enter your body.

WHAT ELSE HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?

Your health care provider will do several biopsies. The biopsies are small bits of cervical skin. The sample will be tested in a lab.

IS THE EXAM PAINFUL?

The exam itself causes no pain. The biopsy can cause some cramping. You may also have a small amount of bleeding after a biopsy.

SELF-CARE AFTER YOUR EXAM

Most women have no problems after the exam. Call your health care provider if you have any warning signs:

- * Bleeding from the vagina more than a heavy period
- * Discharge from the vagina
- * Muscle aches, fever, or headache