

## **LLETZ**

### **(Large Loop Excision of the Transition Zone)**

This is a procedure where a small cone shaped area is removed from the uterine cervix in the operating theatre. Its usually performed under a general anaesthetic although a regional or local anaesthetic technique can occasionally be appropriate.

This is usually a treatment for precancerous abnormalities of the cervix. These most often become evident on a Pap smear screening and/or subsequent examination with a colposcope and cervical biopsy.

After a procedure some discomfort can result and usually can be treated with simple analgesia such as paracetamol and anti-inflammatory medications. Patient usually goes home in several hours.

Some bleeding and discharge is to be expected which gradually settle down over days. The patient is reviewed a week later in my office to discuss the results and outline further plan of management, surgery and or surveillance.

The procedure is very safe, but some side effects can occur. These could involve more than normal vaginal bleeding, infection or a combination of the two. Very occasionally the bleeding can be very heavy resulting in readmission to hospital and even the need for blood transfusion.

Although no effects are visible outside the vagina, a substantial area of the cervix is affected by the surgery and thus certain precautions afterwards are important. Nothing is to be inserted into the vagina for 6 weeks afterwards including tampons and no penetrative sexual intercourse is to be performed for 6 weeks. Showering is fine, but bathing and swimming is to be avoided for 2 weeks and till all vaginal discharge stops whichever is later.

Menstrual bleeding is unaffected by the procedure and thus is to be expected if and when it is to occur.

PLEASE REPORT:

ANY BLEEDING THAT IS GETTING HEAVIER, REQUIRES CHANGE OF PADS MORE OFTEN THAN HOURLY OR IF IT DEVELOPS AN OFFENSIVE ODOUR

SIGNIFICANT PAIN WHICH CANT BE CONTROLLED BY SIMPLE ANALGESIA