



## Pipelle biopsy

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Your general practitioner has recommended that you have a pipelle biopsy. This is a short procedure that takes a sample of cells from the lining of your womb.

If your general practitioner does not perform this procedure they will refer you to another general practitioner who does. They will do this by writing a letter to the general practitioner, including copies of any relevant previous tests that have been done.

The procedure **should not** be performed if you:

- are pregnant or at risk of pregnancy (not using reliable birth control)
- have a blood disorder
- are on blood thinning medication
- have pelvic pain or discharge
- are unwell with a fever on the planned day of the procedure

Please advise your general practitioner if you have, or develop any of the conditions listed above.

### Arranging the appointment

It is **your** responsibility to ensure this procedure is done within a few weeks of it being requested. You will probably be asked to ring and make an appointment unless your practice has organised the appointment for you. If for some reason you do not attend the appointment, **you must** let the doctor that refers you know.

### The pipelle biopsy procedure

#### Before the procedure

It's a good idea to take some pain relief one to two hours before your appointment. Paracetamol or an anti-inflammatory such as ibuprofen is suitable.

You should arrange to have someone you can call to come and collect you in case you feel too unwell to drive, although this is very unlikely. You might like to arrange a support person to come with you.

#### What happens during the procedure?

- 1) First, the doctor will want to check the size and position of your womb. This is done by gently placing two fingers in the vagina, then placing the other hand on the lower part of your abdomen.
- 2) The doctor will then insert a speculum into the vagina (similar to when you have a smear test).
- 3) A holder is then placed on your cervix to keep it steady while a thin, flexible tube (pipelle) is moved through the cervix into the womb.
- 4) The sample is then taken and the speculum will be removed.
- 5) The sample will be sent to the laboratory.

You may feel some cramping during the procedure.

## After the procedure

You may experience some spot bleeding for a few days after the procedure – please bring a pad with you.

Rarely, women can feel light-headed and nauseous. If this happens, it normally only lasts a short time. This is why we recommend you organise someone who could collect you if you don't feel well enough to drive.

There is a very small risk of pelvic infection from the procedure. While you may experience pelvic discomfort for a short time after the procedure, please report any pelvic pain, or abnormal discharge that occurs more than 48 hours afterwards.

## The test results

Your general practitioner will be sent a copy of your test results about one week after the procedure is performed. Please contact your general practitioner if you are not told of the test results within two weeks.

If you have any problems requiring further help, contact your general practitioner or the after-hours service preferred by your practice.

*Written by Canterbury District Health Board. Endorsed by HealthInfo clinical advisers. June 2011. Adapted by 3D HealthPathways, September 2014.*