

# Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP)

**Loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP)** is used to diagnose and treat abnormal cells of the cervix. LEEP can remove abnormal tissue of the cervix. The removed tissue is then sent to a laboratory for testing.

LEEP is done at the doctor's office, clinic, or the hospital. It usually takes about 10 to 15 minutes. LEEP should be done when you are not having your menstrual period.



## During LEEP

1. As you lie down on the exam table, the doctor will insert a device called a speculum into your vagina to reach your cervix. Medicine will be injected to numb your cervix.
2. The doctor will use a wire loop heated by an electric current to cut away a thin layer of abnormal tissue from your cervix.
3. The tissue will be sent to a lab for more testing.
4. The doctor may apply a special paste to prevent or stop bleeding.

## After LEEP

You may have mild cramping for several hours and dark brown vaginal discharge or spotting for about 3 weeks.

### Do not...

- Use tampons for about 3 weeks.
- Have sexual intercourse for about 3 weeks
- Douche for about 4 weeks
- Lift heavy items for 2-3 days

## Possible Risks

Complications may occur after LEEP which may include: infection, bleeding, or scarring in the cervix.

There is a small increased risk of premature births and having a low birth weight baby.

If you have a specific medical condition, you should tell your doctor before the procedure. Also, if you are pregnant or think that you may be pregnant, tell your doctor.

**Call your doctor** as soon as possible if you have any of the following after LEEP:

- Severe pain in the abdomen
- Fever or chills
- Vaginal discharge that smells bad
- Heavy vaginal bleeding

## Follow Up

Follow-up will depend on the lab results of your tissue. Your doctor will tell you when and how often to get a Pap smear (test for cervical cancer). This test is to make sure all abnormal cells are gone.



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