

COLPOSCOPY

Colposcopy is an instrumental examination performed by a gynaecologist in order to detect cervical cancer and pre-cancerous conditions (cervical dysplasia). The need for this examination is determined by the gynaecologist or midwife in case of pathological findings during previous examinations.

Colposcopy is performed using a colposcope (a special microscope) in a gynaecological chair during vaginal examination that lasts about 15 to 20 minutes. 3-5% acetic acid solution and iodine are used to visualise the pathological changes of the cervix. If necessary, the gynaecologist takes a tissue sample from the cervix during this examination and the sample collected will be sent to histological examination. The initial results will be told by the doctor immediately after the examination.

There may be a small amount of brownish, bloody discharge during the week following the procedure. During this time, the patient is not allowed to have sex, take a bath or swim. Vaginal tampons should not be used during this bleeding.

The bladder must be empty in order to perform the procedure.

The following is recommended:

- avoid having sex 24 hours before the examination
- do not use vaginal medications, lubricants or spermicides
- do not do vaginal lavage

This procedure cannot be performed during menstruation and in case of severe cervicitis or vaginitis, that needs prior treatment.