



Going for a Colposcopy

A Plain English Story



Anna gets a letter in the post from CervicalCheck.

The letter has the results of Anna's cervical screening test.

Her doctor gets the results too.

Anna's results are not normal.

She needs to have another test, called a colposcopy.

This is a room for a colposcopy test.

This is like a camera test.

A special microscope makes everything look bigger, so it is easier to see your cervix.

The cervix is the opening to your womb from your vagina.

It is inside your body. You cannot see it.

A colposcopy will help doctors decide if Anna needs any treatment.

Anna gets an appointment for the test and an information booklet.

The letter tells Anna where to go for the test and when to go.

Anna will go to the hospital for the test.

You can phone the clinic before your appointment if you need extra support for your appointment.

Phone the clinic if you have your period on the day of your appointment.

You may not be able to have the test.

We can change your appointment.

Anna should not use medicines or creams for the vagina for 48 hours before the test.

She can ask her doctor or nurse if she is not sure.

Anna can eat and drink as normal before the colposcopy.

She should try to eat something before the appointment.

You can use public transport, for example, a bus, to get to the hospital.

There are accessible parking spaces at most hospitals too.

On the day of the appointment, Anna goes to the hospital.

She brings a friend with her for support.

You can bring a friend, family member, or support person.

You can go on your own if you prefer.

Anna gives her name to the person at the reception desk.

Anna sits in the waiting room.

Anna meets a nurse from CervicalCheck.
She is given some information to read.

Anna's name is called.

She meets the nurse or doctor that will do the test.
They bring Anna to a room to talk about the
colposcopy.

Anna can ask questions about the test.

Anna can bring her support person into the room if
she wants.

A nurse shows Anna to the room where the
colposcopy test will happen.

The room has special equipment and a special chair.
You can ask to have another person in the room with
you when you have the test.

Anna is given a gown to change into.

She needs to take off her clothes from the waist down.

She has privacy while she changes.

When she is ready, Anna sits on the chair.

She puts her feet on the supports.

The nurse tells Anna what to do.

The nurse or doctor doing the test puts a plastic tube into Anna's vagina.

This might feel a bit cold.

The tube helps the nurse or doctor to see her cervix.

A microscope with a light is used to look at Anna's cervix.

Anna does not feel any pain.

She can tell the nurse or doctor to stop at any time.

A coloured liquid, called a dye, is put on to Anna's cervix to show any areas that may not be normal.

There are 3 things that can happen during the test:

1. The nurse or doctor just looks at the cells in Anna's cervix.
2. Anna might need a biopsy – this will find out more about the cells in the cervix.
3. Anna might need a treatment – this will get rid of cells that are not normal.

If the person doing the test sees any cells that might not be normal, they take a sample to send to the laboratory.

This is called a biopsy.

This might be a bit uncomfortable for Anna.

If it is clear that you have cells that are not normal, the doctor or nurse will do a treatment.

The treatment takes these cells away.

It might be a bit uncomfortable but will only take 5 or 10 minutes.

The whole appointment takes about an hour.

The colposcopy test takes 15 to 20 minutes.

Anna is given information about what to do after the test.

Anna can go home.

She does not have to stay in the hospital.

She does not have to pay for the test.

If Anna has a treatment, she should take it easy for the rest of the day.

If Anna has any pain, she can take a painkiller, such as paracetamol.

If Anna has a biopsy or treatment during the test, she will get a letter with her results in a few weeks.

Her doctor gets the results too.

More information

www.cervicalcheck.ie

Phone us free on 1800 45 45 55

