

# Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP)



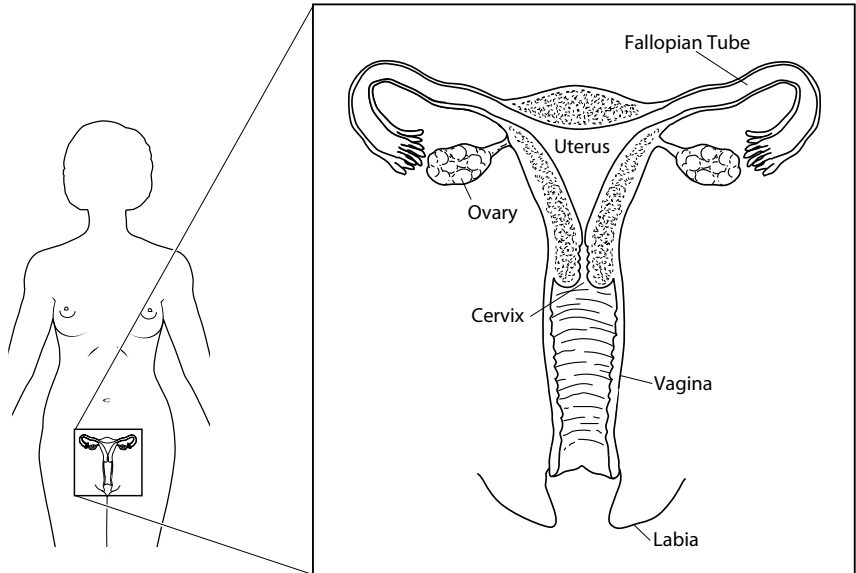
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

## About LEEP

Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure, or LEEP, is a procedure to remove tissue from the cervix that is not normal.

The cervix is the opening of the uterus (womb) and is located at the top of the vagina.

LEEP is usually done in the doctor's office or clinic. The procedure takes about 30 minutes, but plan for the appointment to take 2 hours.



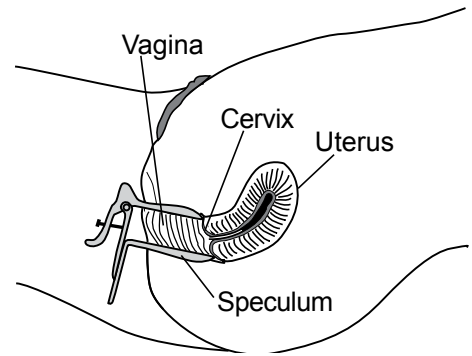
## How to prepare

- Two days before the procedure, avoid sex and do not use creams in or around the vagina.
- Do not douche.
- You may wish to take an over the counter pain medicine 1 to 2 hours before the procedure. Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) are options.

## How it is done

- You will be given ibuprofen to help with any discomfort from the procedure.
- Go to the bathroom and empty your bladder before the test.
- Remove all metal, including any piercings, bra, hair pieces, and eye glasses from your body. Be sure to let the nurse or doctor know if you have any metal inside your body that cannot be removed.
- You will be asked to undress from your waist down and will have a paper sheet to cover you.
- A sticky pad, called a grounding pad, will be placed on your thigh. It is cold. This prevents you from getting a shock since electricity is used during the procedure.
- You will be asked to lie down on the exam table and place your feet in holders at the end of the table, called stirrups.

- Let your knees fall to the sides. Take slow, deep breaths to relax the muscles around your vagina during the exam.
- A metal duck-bill shaped tool, called a speculum, will be placed into your vagina to allow the provider to see inside your vagina.
- An iodine solution is applied to the cervix to make abnormal cells easier to see. This solution also cleans the cervix to prepare for the procedure.
- Your provider will look at your cervix with a big magnifying glass called a colposcope. The colposcope looks like a pair of binoculars on a stand. The colposcope does not go inside of you.
- Your cervix is numbed with a local anesthetic. This is the same medicine the dentist uses to numb you for dental work.
- A loop, with electricity running through it, is inserted through the vagina. The abnormal tissue from the cervix is removed with this loop. This tissue will be sent to the lab for closer study.
- You will then have a sample of tissue taken with a special instrument from the inside of your cervix. This is done to check the inside of your cervix, which the doctor cannot see with the colposcope. This tissue will also be sent to the lab for closer study.
- Your provider will stop bleeding with cautery (you should not feel this) and a solution to your cervix.
- You may feel mild cramping during the procedure.



## Possible risks

Your provider will review these risks with you before the procedure.

- There is a rare risk of infection or heavy bleeding.
- There is a chance that not all abnormal tissue will be removed with this procedure, and you will need more surgery.
- Rare risk of preterm labor with pregnancies you have after this procedure.
- Scar tissue could develop over the cervix, leading to painful periods.

## Caring for yourself after

It will take several weeks to heal from this procedure. Plan to rest for the next week. You may have some bleeding, no more than a heavy period, for a few days and light bloody discharge for a few weeks.

- Place nothing in the vagina for 6 weeks after the procedure. This includes no sexual intercourse, no tampons, and no douching. This will reduce your risk of bleeding from the area that is healing.
- Eat a normal diet.
- Take ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) or similar medicine as directed on the bottle.

- The discharge may first look like brownish-black coffee grounds. In time, this will change to a yellow watery discharge. You may wear a pad.
- You may take a shower. Do not take a tub bath for 6 weeks as this increases your chance for infection.

## When to call your healthcare provider

Call if you have:

- A lot of bleeding where you soak a pad in an hour
- Severe abdominal cramps or pain that gets worse over time
- Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius or higher
- Vaginal discharge that has a bad odor

## Follow up

You will receive the results and instructions for future follow-up appointments. A follow up visit will be scheduled for you. It is very important that you keep all of your appointments.

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**Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at **614-293-3707** or e-mail **health-info@osu.edu**.