Large Loop Excision of Transformation Zone (LLETZ)

Indication

♦ High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion of cervix
♦ Persistent low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion of cervix

The Procedure

♦ All ornaments and metal object, e.g. Wrist watch, earrings, have to be removed before the procedure
♦ Colposcopic examination of the cervix to identify abnormal area
♦ Local anaesthesia or general anaesthesia
♦ An electro-surgical loop is used to cut out the transformation zone of the cervix
♦ Haemostasis with ball electrode +/- application of monsel’s solution
♦ All tissue removed will be sent to the department of pathology or disposed of as appropriate unless otherwise specified

Risk and Complication

♦ Anaesthetic complications
♦ Electric cauterization
♦ Bleeding
♦ Secondary haemorrhage (5% chance)
♦ Infection (5% chance)
♦ Injury to surrounding organ like bladder
♦ Risk of recurrence (up to 10% chance)

Risk of Not Having the Procedure

Persistence of the disease or progression to cancer of cervix

After the Procedure

May experience some vaginal bleeding and lower abdominal discomfort up to 4 weeks after the operation and may have an increased amount of bleeding on Day 7-10 after the operation
Alternative Treatment

♦ Cone biopsy
♦ Hysterectomy

Follow Up

♦ Avoid swimming, intercourse and use of tampon for 6 weeks after the procedure to reduce the risk of wound infection
♦ Attend accident and emergency department in a nearby hospital (preferably the treatment hospital) immediately if vaginal bleeding becomes heavy
♦ Regular cervical smear follow-ups
♦ There is no evidence that a single treatment has any adverse effect on a woman’s future fertility

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor.