



## **LOOP ELECTROSURGICAL EXCISION PROCEDURE (LEEP):**

Cells on the cervix grow and shed all the time. Sometimes these cells change and become abnormal. This may be an early warning that cancer may occur. If tests show that you have abnormal cells on your cervix that are severe or have persisted over an extended period of time, your doctor may suggest the LEEP procedure.

During the procedure you will lie on your back and place your feet into stirrups. The doctor will insert the speculum in the vagina the same way as for a pelvic exam. Your cervix will be numbed with local anesthesia given through a needle. You will remain awake during the procedure. You may feel a dull ache or cramp. The loop is inserted through the vagina and is used to remove the abnormal area on the cervix. After the procedure, a special paste may be applied to stop any bleeding and the tissue that is removed will be studied in a lab to confirm the diagnosis.

**Risks:** Although problems seldom occur with LEEP, there may be some complications. You may feel faint during the procedure. Electrocautery may be used to control bleeding. You should contact your doctor if you have: heavy bleeding more than your normal period with clots, severe abdominal pain, fever over 100.4 F or foul-smelling discharge.

It may take several weeks for your cervix to heal. You will notice vaginal bleeding, mild cramping and brown-blackish discharge for 2 to 3 weeks following the procedure. You should avoid the use of douches or sex for 3 to 4 weeks following the procedure.