



# Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP): Before Your Procedure

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## What is LEEP?

A Loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) removes tissue from the cervix. You may have this done if you've had a Pap test showing tissue that isn't normal.

## How do I prepare for the procedure?

Procedures can be stressful. This information will help you understand what you can expect. And it will help you safely prepare for your procedure.

Your provider will talk to you about your individual circumstances, but a pregnancy test will be performed on the day of your procedure. Your provider may recommend against having a procedure if there is any chance that you could be pregnant at the time of your visit.

- If it applies to you, you can:
  - Abstain from intercourse 2 weeks before your appointment
  - **Or**
  - Use a method of birth control regularly for 2 weeks before your appointment.
  
- Do not douche, use tampons, have sexual intercourse, or use vaginal medicines for 24 hours before the test.

## Tell your doctor:

- If you are having your menstrual period.
- **All** the medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbal remedies you take. Some may increase the risk of problems during your procedure. Your doctor

will tell you if you should stop taking any of them before the procedure and how soon to do it.

- If you take aspirin or some other blood thinner, ask your doctor if you should stop taking it before your procedure. Make sure that you understand exactly what your doctor wants you to do. These medicines increase the risk of bleeding.

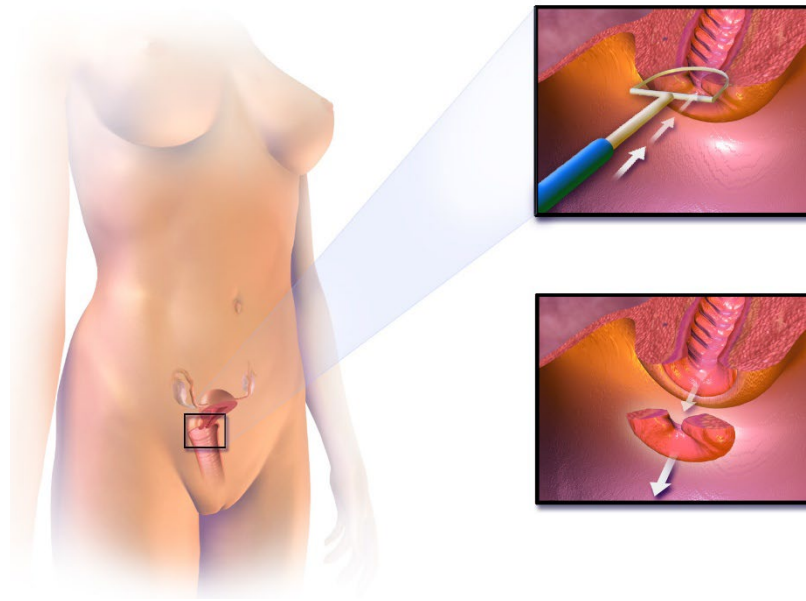
Understand exactly what procedure is planned, along with the risks, benefits, and other options.

### **What happens on the day of the procedure?**

- You may eat or drink as you normally do.
- Take a bath or shower before you come in for your procedure.
- You may want to take a pain reliever, such as ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), 30 to 60 minutes before you have the procedure. This can help reduce any cramping pain.
- The procedure will take about 15 to 30 minutes.

### **What happens during LEEP?**

1. Your doctor will put a tool called a speculum into your vagina. It gently spreads apart the sides of your vagina. This lets your doctor see the cervix and inside the vagina. A special fluid is sometimes put on your cervix to make certain areas easier to see.
2. You will get a shot of medicine to numb the cervix. You may feel a cramp when you have the shot. You may also get pain medicine.
3. Your doctor will put a device with a fine wire loop into your vagina. The doctor uses the heated wire to cut out tissue.



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### **What should I expect after the procedure?**

You may have mild cramps for several hours after LEEP. A dark brown discharge during the first week is normal. You may have some spotting for about 3 weeks.

You should be able to go back to your normal routine in 1 to 3 days. How long it takes you to recover will depend on how much was done.

### **Follow-up care is a key part of your treatment and safety.**

Make sure to:

- Schedule and attend all appointments.
- Call your doctor if you are having problems.
- Know your test results.
- Keep a list of the medicines you take.

### **When should I call my doctor?**

#### **Call your doctor if you:**

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- Have questions or concerns.
- Don't understand how to prepare for your procedure.
- Become ill before the procedure (such as fever, flu, or a cold).
- Need to reschedule or have changed your mind about having the procedure.

## Where can I learn more?

To learn more about Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) follow these instructions:

1. log into your patient portal at <http://www.MyUofMHealth.org>
2. Open the menu
3. Click "Search Healthwise Health Library"
4. Enter L547 in the search box and click the Abnormal Pap Test link.

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Author: Charisse Loder, MD

Reviewers: Rosalyn Maben-Feaster, MD

Edited by: Karelyn Munro BA

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