

## **LEEP Procedure** (Loop Electrical Excision Procedure)

Occasionally a pap smear shows abnormal cell growth. When this occurs, it is sometimes necessary to remove the affected area of the cervix to provide an accurate microscopic analysis of the abnormal tissue. Most often, removing this tissue will serve as both the definitive diagnostic procedure and the cure. The LEEP procedure enables the physician to remove a piece of tissue from the cervix with a minimal amount of bleeding or discomfort. Local anesthesia is used so only some uterine cramping is experienced. An electrical current through this wire allows it to cut through the tissue with ease. The heat produced from the current cauterizes the area which controls the bleeding. The piece of tissue removed is sent to a pathologist who will determine if all the abnormal tissue has been removed. In two – three months, the cervical tissue regenerates. Usually this tissue will be healthy and normal. The LEEP procedure can be done anytime except when bleeding so it should not be scheduled at the expected time of menses.

### **Home Care Instructions Following LEEP (Loop Electrical Excision Procedure)**

- Minor cramping may persist for five to seven days duration following the loop excision, as well as a minimal amount of bleeding or discharge. If you encounter severe cramping or heavy bleeding, please contact us at 832-1424. If the office is not open at the time of your call, you will be directed to the physician on call 24 hours a day.
- Please place nothing in the vagina for four weeks. This includes no douching, tampons or sexual intercourse.
- It is very important that you return to the office at four weeks and at six months following the loop excision, to make sure you are healing properly. At the six month appointment, we will repeat your pap smear to determine if any of the abnormal tissue is returning. If you are having your period, please call and reschedule your appointment.
- Please restrict vigorous activities for one week following the loop excision. It is advisable to limit work the day of the loop excision and rest at home if possible.
- Use Tylenol, Advil or Nuprin for cramping or discomfort.
- If you have not heard from our office in one week regarding your pathology report, please call and talk with a nurse.
- If you have any questions, please call 832-1424.