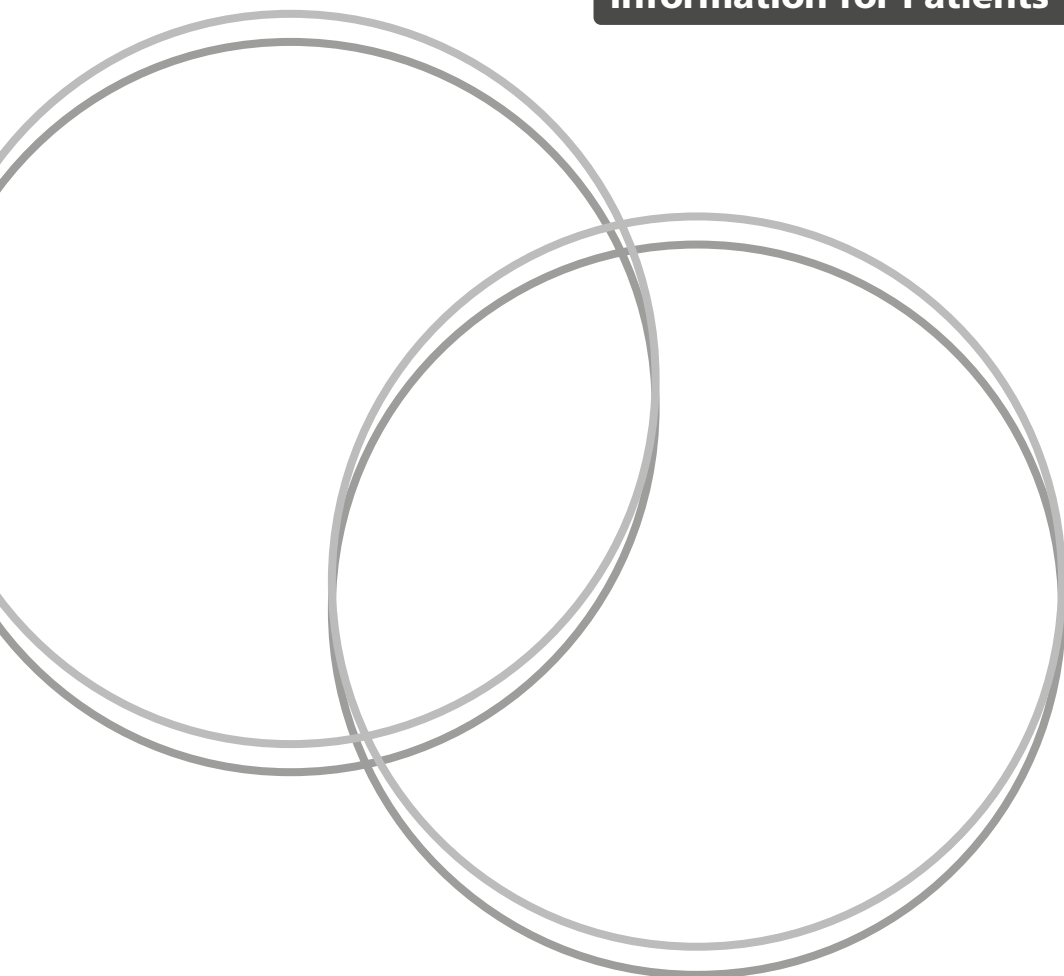




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Pipelle Biopsy

Information for Patients



Advice and information following your Pipelle Biopsy

What is a pipelle biopsy?

It is a procedure to take a small sample (biopsy) from the lining of your uterus. The doctor will first carry out an examination of your vagina and cervix using a speculum. The biopsy is then taken by inserting a thin straw-like tube (pipelle) through your vagina and cervix into the uterus. This takes just a few seconds. The sample is then sent to the hospital laboratory for testing.

What are the risks of a pipelle biopsy?

It is common to have a small amount of bleeding for 48 hours after this procedure. We advise that you wear a sanitary pad during this time, not tampons. Some women experience period-like pain for a few hours. This can be treated with Paracetamol or Ibuprofen. Rare complications include, prolonged bleeding, infection, or damage to the uterus.

How do I get the result?

Your gynaecologist will write to you and your GP with the results of the biopsy. This will take approximately 4 weeks. If you have not received a letter after this time, please contact the Gynaecology Pathway Administrator on 01865 222175. If you require any further treatment or a follow-up appointment, we will discuss this in full with you.

After the procedure

You will not need time off work. You can carry out all your normal activities, including exercise. You should avoid sex until the bleeding or discharge has stopped completely. If your bleeding becomes very heavy, please contact Gynaecology Triage on 01865 222001. If you develop a smelly discharge, this could mean you have a mild infection. Please contact your GP surgery for further advice.

What if I have any worries or concerns?

If, at any time, you have any further questions or concerns following your pipelle biopsy please contact us.

Gynaecology Triage

Level 1, Women's Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX3 9DU

Tel. 01865 222001 or 01865 222002

(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Out of Hours

Alternatively, you can call the NHS helpline on telephone: 111

In the event of an emergency, such as heavy bleeding where you are saturating a sanitary pad every 30 minutes and feeling dizzy, please go to your nearest A&E Department or call 999.

Further Information

Please speak to the department where you are being seen if you would like an interpreter. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter. Please also ask them if you would like this information leaflet in another format, such as:

- easy read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronically
- in another language.

We have tried to make this information meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They will be happy to help.

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