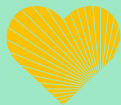


# Pipelle Endometrial Biopsy



**fernandez**

Built for Birthing

## What is a Pipelle biopsy?

It is a procedure wherein a small sample of tissue (biopsy) is obtained from the lining of the uterus (endometrium). The tissue is sent to the pathology laboratory for examination the results of which are usually available in 7-10 days.

## When is it advised?

- Abnormal menstrual bleeding
- Bleeding after menopause
- Abnormally thickened endometrium on ultrasonography
- Follow-up of conditions such as endometrial hyperplasia (abnormal thickening)

## When is it advised?

This is an outpatient procedure which usually does not warrant anaesthesia. A pain killer tablet is advised half an hour prior. After one lies down on the examination couch, the cervix (mouth of the uterus) is visualized and cleansed with an antiseptic solution. A thin plastic canula (similar to a straw) is inserted into the uterine cavity and a small amount of tissue is withdrawn by suction using gentle rotating and scraping movements. Sometimes, the cervix may

have to be steadied with an instrument if there is difficulty in insertion of the canula. The whole procedure takes a few minutes. This is different than a pap smear test which detects the health of the cervix as a part of screening for cervical precancer and cancer.

There may be mild period-like cramps experienced during the procedure and one may notice minimal vaginal spotting for a day or two. Normal activities can be resumed after the procedure. Abstinence from sexual intercourse is advised until the cessation of bleeding. In some instances, sampling may not be possible if the cervix is stenosed (tightly closed) or the pain is unbearable; the procedure may then be scheduled later under anaesthesia in the operation theatre.

## **Are there any risks?**

There are no serious side effects. Bleeding, infection and perforation of the uterine wall are extremely rare. One must report to the hospital if there is severe abdominal pain, excessive vaginal bleeding or a smelly (malodorous) discharge.

## **Follow up**

A review appointment with the doctor is usually scheduled after 7 to 10 days to discuss the results of the test and plan further treatment.

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