

Important Notice

If you are unable to attend for your appointment please telephone the clinic in advance so that your appointment can be allocated to someone else.

**If any urgent problems out of clinic hours
Please contact: Ward 3E on
0151 430 1522**

**This leaflet is available in alternative
languages/formats on request**

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals 
NHS Trust

**St Helens Hospital
Department of Gynaecology
Services**

01744 646301

Vulvoscopy

Green Zone

**Ground Floor
9am – 5pm**

Patient information leaflet

**St Helens Hospital
Marshalls Cross Road
St Helens WA9 3DA**

Reasons for the procedure

As you know your G.P has referred you to the Vulvoscopy Clinic. This is to investigate the problems that you have been experiencing in your vulval area.

Nature of the procedure

During the examination the doctor/nurse will examine you using a colposcope (large microscope). This enables him/her to see the area in greater detail. A solution may be applied to the skin to identify abnormal areas. This solution may sting a little but will be washed off quickly.

Biopsy

If the doctor identifies any potential abnormal areas a local anaesthetic will be given and a tiny piece of skin removed for analysis. One or two very fine absorbable stitches will be necessary following a biopsy.

It is important to keep the area clean and dry have daily showers and pat gently with a clean towel. **Do not put** any salt/Savlon in your bath water. The stitches will dissolve, which may take up to a week. If you notice the stitches have not dissolved after this time please attend your GP's practice nurse to have them removed.

You may have a small amount of blood loss in the first 24 – 48 hours. If you experience excessive blood loss or swelling, contact your GP or the clinic. You may wish to take analgesia for the pain.

Results of your biopsy

You will normally receive your result within 4 weeks. A biopsy is not always necessary for every patient.

Benefits of the procedure

This procedure is intended to identify cause for the symptoms you are experiencing.

Risks of the procedure

There is no risk associated with a vulvoscopy examination. If you have a biopsy of your vulva the risks are infection, bleeding.

Discomforts of the procedure

During the examination you may feel a stinging sensation due to the solution being applied to your vulva. If a biopsy is taken you may feel the local anaesthetic stinging but you should not feel the biopsy being taken.

Alternatives

There are no alternatives to this procedure.

Consequences of not having the procedure

If you do not have this procedure it may not be possible to find a cause for you symptoms.

If you have any queries concerning your vulvoscopy appointment or have any worries prior to your next appointment contact the clinic for advice.