

The Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) is a minor surgical office procedure performed to remove abnormal cells from the cervix.

Why is it done:

- A LEEP is performed when your pap smear indicates the presence of abnormal cells on the cervix, and is confirmed by a colposcopy.
 - This treatment does not mean you have cancer, but removal of the abnormal cells is necessary. Typically you will be told the cells on your cervix were found to be “high-grade.”
 - A LEEP preserves the tissue removed for examination by pathology to ensure that all abnormal cells have been removed and confirms the diagnosis.
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What can I expect if I have the procedure:

- A LEEP procedure is performed under a local anesthetic with lidocaine and epinephrine. A thin wire loop electrode quickly removes the affected cervical tissue.
 - After the tissue is removed, a medication is placed on the cervix, and healing takes place usually in 2 weeks.
 - A mild amount of cramping may be present during the procedure.
 - It is advised that you take Ibuprofen (Advil) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol) one hour prior to the procedure as some cramping may occur.
 - You should notify your physician if you are or may be pregnant.
 - You should not use tampons, vaginal medications, douche, or have sexual intercourse for 48 hour prior to the procedure.
 - It is best to have this procedure done immediately following your menstrual period. This procedure cannot be done if you are having your period. However, if you are spotting, the procedure can still be done.
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