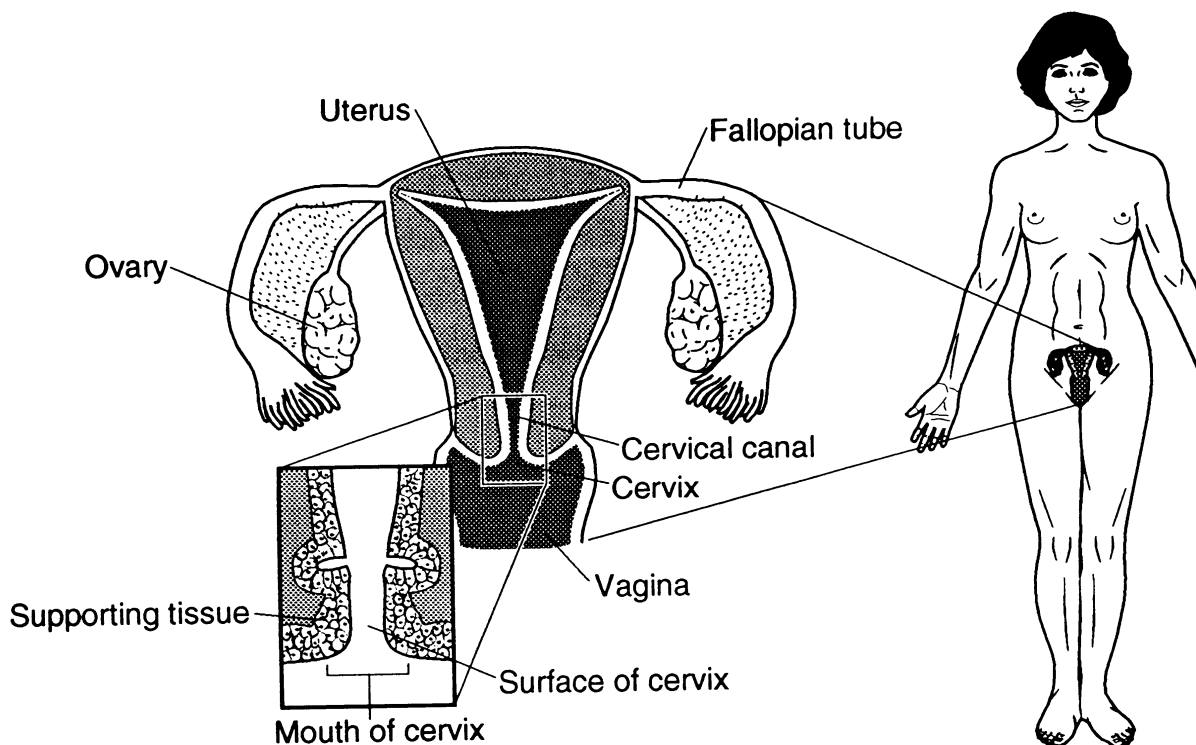


Colposcopy

Colposcopy is a close look at the cervix. The cervix is the opening of the uterus (womb) and is located at the back of the vagina.



How is Colposcopy done?

A colposcopy is like having a Pap smear. The colposcope looks like a pair of binoculars on a stand. A speculum is placed into the vagina. Once the vagina is open, the colposcope is used to magnify the cervix. Your doctor then has a clear view of the cervix so changes in the cervix can be seen. The doctor may use a special instrument to take a sample of the tissue from the cervix. This is called a cervical biopsy. There may be a cramping type pain with the biopsy. The colposcopy and the biopsy take about five to ten minutes.

How do I take care of myself at home?

When you go home, take the time to recover slowly. Follow a few easy do's and do not's.

Do's:

- Stay quiet and rest for 24 hours.
- Eat a normal diet.
- Take Tylenol ® or Advil ® or similar medicine every four (4) hours, if needed for cramping or pain. **Do not use Advil or Ibuprofen if you are pregnant.**
- If you have had a cervical biopsy, you may have a red or brown vaginal discharge for a day. You may wear a pad.
- You may take a shower.

Do Nots:

- Do not take a tub bath for three days. This increases your chance for infection.
- Do not have sexual relations, use tampons, or douche until your doctor tells you that you can.

Call your doctor if you have:

- Excessive bleeding where you soak a pad in an hour
- Severe abdominal cramps or pain
- Chills or fever of 101 degrees or higher
- Vaginal discharge that has an unusual odor

When do I see my doctor again?

- Return to your doctor or the clinic in _____ weeks.
- If you have any questions, call your doctor or the clinic.

If you would like more written information, please call the Library for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.