

# Vulval biopsy

## Women's Health

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### What is a vulval biopsy?

A vulval biopsy is a very small sample taken from the vulva or genital area. This is sent off to the laboratory to be looked at under a microscope.

### Taking the biopsy

Having been given a local anaesthetic prior to the biopsy being taken, you can expect to experience some discomfort or soreness and possibly very slight blood loss following this minor procedure. You may have one of two stitches after the biopsy has been taken which are dissolvable and should dissolve within 10-12 days. It is important after a taking a bath or showering to dry the area gently and thoroughly afterwards.

### Information following a vulval biopsy

You are advised to go home and rest after the procedure. You may take a bath/shower daily but do not add anything to the bath water, or use soap on the area. Keep the vulval area clean and dry. You can resume sexual intercourse when you feel comfortable

If it is appropriate to take pain relief medication, you can use over the counter medication such as ibuprofen or paracetamol. However, you are advised to avoid medications containing aspirin as this can cause the wound to bleed due to aspirin's blood thinning properties.

### Results

The results of the biopsy will available within four weeks. If necessary we will contact you for a follow up visit, where any necessary treatment can be discussed. You will be seen in the outpatient clinic for the results and an appointment will be given before you leave.

### Contact us

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic between the hours of 8am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Leatherhead Hospital  
Tel. 01372 384340

St Helier Hospital  
Tel. 020 8296 2954 and select the option Colposcopy

### In case of emergency

If you are particularly worried and unable to reach us, do not hesitate to contact your GP for advice, or in case of an emergency go straight to A&E.

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