

## **ENDOMETRIAL BIOPSY**

### **What is an endometrial biopsy?**

Endometrial biopsy is a screening test during which a sample of cells is removed from the lining of the uterus, which is called the endometrium. The cells are then sent to the lab to be examined under a microscope.

### **Why is an endometrial biopsy needed?**

Endometrial biopsy is used to determine causes of abnormal uterine bleeding. It can also be used for the evaluation of certain Pap smear abnormalities.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

You may be asked to take a pregnancy test to make sure you are not pregnant. Your provider will place a speculum in your vagina, which is the same instrument that is used during a Pap smear. Your provider will look at your cervix and clean it with an antiseptic liquid. A cervical dilator may be used to open your cervix so a thin suction straw, or catheter, can be placed into your uterus. The straw will collect a small sample of cells, which will be sent to a lab to be evaluated. You may feel some cramping during the procedure.

### **What are the risks?**

- Mild to moderate cramping
  - Rarely, cramping will be severe and associated with a flushed, nauseous feeling that goes away after a few minutes. You can lie on the table until you feel well enough to get dressed.
- Light vaginal bleeding after the procedure
- A small risk of:
  - Infection
  - Injury to the uterus

### **What should I do to prepare for the procedure?**

- An endometrial biopsy can be done during your menstrual cycle, but it is better to have it done when you are not on your period.
- If you are not allergic, you may take 800 milligrams of ibuprofen (4 regular-strength tablets of Advil or Motrin) or 1000 milligrams of acetaminophen (2 extra-strength tablets of Tylenol) 1 hour before the procedure.
- For 24 hours before the procedure, you should **avoid douching** (which is generally not recommended at any time); otherwise there are no activity restrictions.

**What should I expect during recovery?**

You will be able to drive yourself home after this procedure. You may bring someone to drive you if you would like.

You may:

- Resume normal activity after the procedure.
- Have spotting for several days after the procedure; you can wear pads or tampons.
- Feel sore for a few days. You can take an over-the-counter (OTC) pain reliever if you are experiencing pain.

**Call your provider if you experience:**

- Heavy vaginal bleeding (soaking more than one pad per hour)
- Foul-smelling vaginal discharge • Heavy vaginal discharge
- Abdominal pain that is not relieved with an OTC pain reliever
- Fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit

Office number: **(404) 778-3401**, Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM

- For emergencies after hours, calling this number will connect you to the operator, who will page the OBGYN physician on call.

**If your pain becomes severe, or your fever rises above 102°F in the 3 days following the procedure you should go to the emergency room.**

**How long will it take to get my results?**

It should take 1-2 weeks to get your results. You may receive your results one of three ways:

- A phone call from your doctor or nurse
- Through your secure Emory Healthcare portal
- Through a letter in the mail

If you do not have your results after 2 weeks, please call the office at the number listed above.

Additional instructions:

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