

# LLETZ: Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone

## Patient Information

Obstetrics & Gynaecology Service

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## Contact numbers

- Women's Healthcare Unit, Leigh  
Telephone 01942 264959 / 01942 264960 Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Colposcopy Secretary  
Telephone 01942 264091 Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Swinley Ward, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan  
Telephone 01942 822568 (out of hours)

## What is LLETZ?

LLETZ stands for Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone. It is performed to remove abnormal changes that have occurred on your cervix (neck of the womb).

## How is it performed?

It involves using a local (freezing) anaesthetic. You will not be put to sleep. The doctor or specialist nurse removes the abnormal tissue using a heated wire loop. A small diathermy pad will be applied to your thigh. This is used as a safety procedure for the LLETZ equipment and is removed when the procedure has been completed.

You will be placed in the same position as for a smear test and/or a colposcopy, on a specially designed couch which makes the procedure more comfortable.

## Is it painful?

The cervix is relatively insensitive to pain. Prior to treatment the cervix is frozen with an injection of local anaesthetic using a small needle; however some discomfort, like a period pain, is sometimes felt during this procedure.

## Will it cure me?

Majority of patients are cured by the first treatment. A few patients will require a second treatment and even less will require an alternative treatment such as cone biopsy or hysterectomy.

## How long will it take?

On average about 15 - 20 minutes. You should plan to spend about an hour in the clinic to allow a period of 20 - 30 minutes rest afterwards.

## Benefits

- The abnormal area of the cervix (neck of the womb) will be removed.
- This allows us to send this abnormal tissue to the laboratory to be checked and to confirm that the abnormal area has been completely removed.

## Risks

- Infection and bleeding.
- There is small risk of late miscarriage or premature delivery in subsequent pregnancies; However this depends upon the length of LLETZ biopsy, the type of abnormal cells found and number of times LLETZ procedure has been done.
- A small minority of women might need a repeat procedure because of incomplete removal of abnormal cells.

## Advice following treatment

Take it easy for the next two or three days. You will experience some vaginal bleeding and discharge, and this may last up to four to six weeks on and off.

If you have bleeding, which is heavier than a period, or an offensive discharge, contact the Women's Healthcare Unit or your GP. If you have any problems out of hours, contact Swinley Ward for advice. The telephone numbers are at the end of page 2.

**Do not** have intercourse and **do not** use tampons for 4 - 6 weeks. Your next period may be slightly heavier than normal.

- Avoid baths and swimming for 4 weeks, showers may be taken.
- Avoid strenuous exercise for 2 weeks.

## Follow-up

Once we have the results we will write to you informing you of the result and we will advise you when your next smear will be. It is usually 6 months after the LLETZ treatment in the nurses smear clinic at the Women's Health Unit, Leigh Infirmary. An appointment will be arranged for you.

## Pregnancy and contraception

You should avoid pregnancy until you have had your first follow-up smear and have had a normal result. You should continue to use your normal contraception. If you are not using contraception, we would advise a sheath (condom) until after you have been treated. If you have a coil, we may have to remove it prior to the treatment.

If you are on period, or cannot attend for some other reason please ring:

Women's Healthcare Unit, **01942 264959** or **01942 264960** or the Colposcopy secretary on 01942 264091 Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

### **Out of hours emergencies only:**

Swinley Ward, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, telephone 01942 822568

If you have any queries or worries of any kind contact the Women's Healthcare Unit Leigh Infirmary and ask to speak to a nurse.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: [https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient\\_information/leaflets/](https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/leaflets/)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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