

Endometrial Biopsy

Why am I having this done?

Your doctor has scheduled you for an endometrial biopsy. The biopsy can help find the cause of irregular bleeding, infertility, and postmenopausal bleeding.

How is an endometrial biopsy done?

It will be done in the clinic by your doctor or physician's assistant (PA). Local anesthesia may or may not be used.

A speculum is inserted into your vagina. This brings your cervix into view. Another instrument, called a tenaculum, is placed on your cervix to hold it in place. Then a small straw-like catheter (tube) is inserted through the cervical opening. Suction or scraping is used to get a tissue sample. The instruments are then removed. You may feel some slight cramping when the tissue sample is taken. You may want to take Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) one hour before your biopsy. This will reduce the cramping.

What should I expect after the biopsy?

You may have spotting up to five days after the biopsy. You may have some cramping the day of the biopsy.

Call the Women Veterans Comprehensive Health Care Center at (612) 725-2030, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; at any other time, call Urgent Care at (612) 467-2771 if:

- You bleed for more than five days
- Bleeding increases or starts to have a foul odor
- You have a temperature greater than 100°
- You have severe abdominal cramping
- You have not received a letter with your biopsy results within a month

Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or problems.

What precautions do I need to take after the procedure?

Do not place anything in your vagina (tampons, douches) or have intercourse as long as you are bleeding or for three days, whichever is the longer time. Bathe or shower as usual. Avoid staying in the bathtub for longer than 20 minutes. You may take over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Advil, etc.) for pain. Follow the directions on the medication bottle. You may return to your activities as soon as possible, there are no activity restrictions.