

Cervix Treatment - Cryosurgery

Definition

Cervix cryosurgery is a surgical treatment to freeze and destroy abnormal tissue in the cervix.

Alternative Names

Cervix surgery; Cryosurgery - female

Description

Cryotherapy is an office procedure done while you are awake. The vaginal canal is held open so that the doctor can see the cervix. The doctor inserts a device called a cryo probe into the vagina, and places it firmly on the surface of the cervix, covering the abnormal tissue.

Freezing cold compressed nitrogen gas flows through the instrument, making the metal cold enough to freeze and destroy the tissue.

An "ice ball" forms on the cervix, killing the abnormal cells. For the treatment to be most effective, the freezing is done for 3 minutes, the cervix is allowed to thaw, then the freezing is repeated for another 3 minutes.

Although you may have slight cramping, cryosurgery is relatively painless.

Why the Procedure is Performed

Uses of cryosurgery include:

- Treatment of cervicitis
- Treatment of cervical dysplasia

Your doctor will help you to decide if cryosurgery is right for your condition.

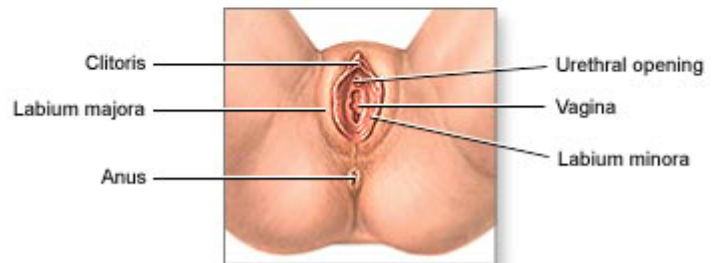
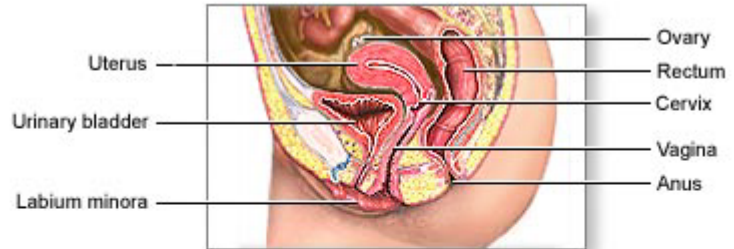
Recovery

You can resume almost all of your normal activities right after surgery. You may need to avoid sexual intercourse, as well as douching, for several weeks. For 2 - 3 weeks after the surgery, you will have a lot of watery discharge caused by the shedding (sloughing) of the dead cervical tissue.

You might feel light-headed right after the procedure. If this happens, lie down flat on the examination table so that you do not faint. This feeling should go away in a few minutes.

Outlook (Prognosis)

The surgery is usually effective. Your health care provider should do a repeat Pap smear or biopsy at a follow-up visit to make sure that the operation successfully destroyed abnormal tissue.



ADAM.

Compressed nitrogen gas flows through a cryo probe making the metal cold enough to freeze and destroy the abnormal cervical tissue



Cervix as viewed through speculum with patient in lithotomy position

ADAM.

Risks

Risks for any surgery are:

- Bleeding
- Infection

Other risks include:

- Scarring (cervical stenosis), which may make it more difficult to get pregnant, or cause increased cramping with menstrual periods. However, cryosurgery causes very little scarring.

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