Endometrial Biopsy

This information describes what to expect during and after your endometrial biopsy.

About Your Endometrial Biopsy

During your endometrial biopsy, your doctor will remove a small piece of tissue from the lining of your uterus. The lining of your uterus is called your endometrium.

This tissue is sent to the pathology department to be examined under a microscope. The pathologist will look for abnormal cells or signs of cancer.

Before Your Procedure

Tell your doctor or nurse if:

- You’re allergic to iodine.
- You’re allergic to latex.
- There’s a chance that you’re pregnant. If you still get your period and are between ages 11 and 50, you will need to take a urine pregnancy test to make sure you’re not pregnant.

You won’t need to do anything to get ready for this procedure.

During Your Procedure

You will have your endometrial biopsy done in an exam room. You will lie on your back as you would for a routine pelvic exam. You will be awake during the procedure.
First, your doctor will put a speculum into your vagina. A speculum is a tool that will gently spread apart your vaginal walls, so your doctor can see your cervix (the bottom part of your uterus).

Next, your doctor will clean your cervix with a cool, brown solution of povidone-iodine (Betadine®). Then, they will put a thin, flexible tool, called a pipelle, through your cervix and into your uterus to take a small amount of tissue from your endometrium. You will feel some cramping while your doctor removes the tissue. After the tissue is removed, your doctor will take out the speculum.

The procedure usually takes about 5 minutes.

After Your Procedure

- You may have a small amount of vaginal spotting or bleeding. This can last for several days after your procedure. You may use a sanitary pad, if needed. Don’t use tampons.

- You may have some cramping after your procedure. You can take medications such as ibuprofen (Advil®) or acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help with this.

- Don’t place anything in your vagina for 48 hours (2 days) unless your doctor tells you it’s okay. This includes douches and tampons.

- Talk with your doctor or nurse about when it’s safe for you to have vaginal intercourse again.

- Your doctor’s office will contact you with your biopsy results in about 1 week.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse if You Have:

- A fever of 101° F (38.3° C) or higher

- Vaginal bleeding that’s heavier than your normal menstrual flow

- Pain that doesn’t get better after taking medication for cramping

- Any foul smelling or pus-like drainage from your vagina
If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.