Minor Gynecological Surgery with LEEP

Here is some information for you to take home

WHAT IS A D&C
- D&C is short form for “dilation and curettage”.
- This means the cervix (opening of the womb) is slightly opened so that a medical tool (curette) can be inserted into it.
- This medical tool gently scrapes away some tissue from the inner lining of the uterus (the womb).

WHY DO I NEED A D&C
- If you have had unusual heavy bleeding from the uterus (womb), a D&C will help you doctor find the cause.
- If you have had a miscarriage, it will prevent infection and bleeding.

WHAT IS LEEP
- LEEP is also known as Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure.
- In LEEP, a fine wire loop removes abnormal tissue from the cervix. A high frequency current in the loop seals blood vessels, decreasing bleeding.

WHAT IS A CERVICAL POLYP
- A non-cancerous growth found on the cervix.
- The cause of these polyps is not known.
- They are usually not bigger than three centimeters (3cm) but can cause bleeding.
- Treatment is the surgical removal of these polyps.

BEFORE SURGERY
- Tests that may be done:
  - Bloodwork
  - EKG (Electrocardiogram)
  - Urine Test
  - Chest x-ray

ON THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE
- Shower the morning of your procedure.
- Take medication with a sip of water if instructed to do so.
- Do not smoke.
- Please do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the night before your procedure.
AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- After the procedure, you will go to the Recovery Room.
- Your blood pressure and your pulse will be watched carefully.
- You will return to your room in about one (1) hour.
- Once back in your room, you may be able to get up and walk around with the help of a nurse.
- You may experience some dull cramping pain. Ask your nurse for pain pills if needed.
- You might have a small amount of vaginal bleeding. If you experience this, a sanitary pad will be given to you.
- When you are feeling well, you may go home. You will need a friend or relative to drive you home.

GOING HOME

- You may be able to return to work the next day.
- To prevent infection, you are asked not to go swimming until the vaginal bleeding has stopped.
- Your doctor may request a follow-up appointment.

FOR D&C PATIENTS

- To prevent infection. You are asked not to use tampons, have sex, douche, or put anything in the vagina until the bleeding has stopped.
- You may shower or bath. Please wait forty-eight (48) hours to have a bath after a D&C for pregnancy loss.

FOR LEEP PATIENTS

- You may have thick brownish black vaginal discharge.
- You may experience mild to moderate cramping.
- You may experience heavier menstrual flow during your next period.
- Your cervix should be completely healed a few days after your procedure.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE

- Fever
- Heavy bleeding with passing of large clots, or
- if you have foul smelling vaginal discharge.
PAIN

- Pain following a D&C should not last more than one to two (1-2) days. Severe pain is not normal. Depending on your procedure, you may have pain upon urination for two (2) days.
- Pain following LEEP may be mild to moderate cramping. Take the pain medications as prescribed if needed.
- Severe pain following LEEP is not normal.

Questions for your Doctor / Other Instructions:

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