



ENDOMETRIAL BIOPSY

WHAT IS IT?

Endometrial biopsy is a diagnostic test performed in a doctor's office. The test is used to acquire a small tissue sample of the endometrium (lining of the uterus) for further examination.

WHAT CONDITIONS IS IT DESIGNED TO TREAT?

Endometrial biopsy is used when symptoms such as abnormal uterine bleeding, postmenopausal bleeding, or abnormal radiographic or ultrasonic imaging indicate an irregularity. Endometrial biopsy is also used if the Pap smear reveals abnormal glandular cells, or as a follow-up to a finding of endometrial hyperplasia. Endometrial biopsy can also be used to determine causes of infertility.

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?

The procedure is done in a doctor's office. No anesthesia is needed. A speculum is inserted into the vagina. A small, hollow, plastic or metal tube is inserted through the cervix into the uterine cavity. Suction at the other end of the tube collects tissue from the lining of the uterus.

ARE THERE OTHER SIMILAR PROCEDURES?

Vabra aspiration: an electronic suction device that collects endometrial tissue.

D and C (Dilatation and Curettage): a more extensive procedure that involves removal of a larger portion of the uterine lining.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS?

Potential risks include prolonged bleeding and infection. There is a small risk of uterine perforation (a small hole in the uterus).

WHAT ARE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

Patients can return to normal activities immediately but should refrain from sexual intercourse, douching, or tampon use for several days following the procedure. If the patient notices any bleeding or develops signs of an infection such as fever and chills, they should contact a physician immediately.

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