

OB – GYN ASSOCIATES, P.A.

LOOP ELECTROSURGICAL EXCISION PROCEDURE (LEEP)

A PAP test detects changes in the cervix. Cells on the cervix grow and shed all the time. When normal cells become abnormal, it is known as dysplasia. In mild forms, this may go away on its own. When dysplasia is severe, it may lead to cancer of the cervix. Other factors such as smoking and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases also increase the risk of cervical cancer.

LEEP is just one way to treat dysplasia. The abnormal cells can be removed and allows healthy cells to grow. LEEP uses a thin wire loop that acts like a surgical knife. An electric current is passes through the loop, which cuts away a thin layer of the surface cells. The tissue is then sent to the lab to be studied. To allow the best view of your cervix this procedure need to be done when you are not having your menstrual cycle.

This procedure takes only a few minutes and is done at the outpatient facility at Kennestone Hospital or Marietta Surgical Center. You will be given IV medication for sedation and pain and a local anesthesia will be used to numb the cervix. You may feel a dull ache or cramp. In rare incidences General anesthesia may be indicated. During the procedure you lie on your back and your legs will be placed in stirrups. Your doctor will then insert a speculum into your vagina. This is similar to your routine pelvic exams in the office. A solution is applied to the cervix to allow visualization of the abnormal cells. After the procedure, a special paste may be used to stop any bleeding.

Risks- Although rare, there can be some complications. You may feel faint during the procedure or have some bleeding. There is also a risk of infection after the procedure. These complications are rare and easily treated. Please contact your doctor if you have any of the following-

- ❖ Heavy bleeding-more than your normal period
- ❖ Bleeding with clots
- ❖ Severe abdominal pain
- ❖ Fever >100.4
- ❖ Foul-smelling vaginal discharge

Recovery- It may take a few weeks for your cervix to heal. While your cervix heals you may have some mild vaginal bleeding or brownish dark discharge and mild cramping. DO NOT have sex or use tampons or douches during this recovery time.