

Gynaecological sample

A gynaecological sample is a sample that is taken from the uterine lining, the cervix and/or the cervical channel, the wall of the vagina or the vulva (i.e. the external genitalia). The sample is taken during your outpatient clinic appointment and it does not require preparatory measures. (This guide contains sections that need to be filled).

It is preferable not to collect a sample during menstrual bleeding.

The Pap test, also known as smear test: the Pap test is used to look for changes in the cells of the cervix, meaning the first stages of cervical cancer. The sample is taken from the cervix by using a wooden spatula and from the cervical canal by using a brush.

A biopsy: A biopsy can be taken from the external genitalia, the wall of the vagina, or the external orifice of the cervix. The wall of the vagina or the external orifice of the cervix are not very sensitive, so local anesthesia is not necessary. The sample is taken using biopsy forceps, and you can feel mild pain when the biopsy is taken.

In case of vulvar biopsy, local anesthesia is administered to the area before the biopsy is taken.

Endometrial biopsy: A tissue sample from the lining of the uterus is used to check for causes of abnormal bleeding or changes to the lining of the uterus. The biopsy is used to supplement an ultrasound examination. The biopsy is taken from the uterus by inserting a small biopsy catheter through the vagina, and it takes less than a minute. You can feel momentary lower abdominal sensations similar to menstrual pain during the sampling.

HPV (human papillomavirus) test: The HPV test is used to determine the presence of the high-risk types of HPV. The sample supplements other tests to check for abnormal cell changes. The sample is taken from the cervical canal by using a brush.

After sampling

- You can experience a small amount of bloody, **brown discharge** on the day of the sampling after a Pap test and an HPV test.
- You can experience light bloody discharge for a couple of days after a vaginal biopsy and biopsy taken from the external orifice of the cervix.

- After a vulvar biopsy there can be bleeding from the biopsy site for a few days. **A scab** will form onto the biopsy site, and **it is best to let it fall of on its own**, which is why you should use dapping motions when wiping the area.

Due to a risk of infection, we recommend that you **avoid intercourse**, use of tampons or menstrual cups, swimming and bathing in a bathtub and taking sitz baths during the bleeding.

Sample results

The samples are sent to a pathologist for analysis. The results are ready within 3 weeks. You will receive your results as previously agreed with your care provider.

Contact information

If the post sample discharge becomes heavier or develops a bad odor, you develop lower abdominal pain or fever, please contact the hospital that administered your test.