

Before having an endometrial biopsy, you need to know the alternatives, possible benefits, risks, and warning signs. We have listed them here for you. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What is endometrial biopsy?

Endometrial biopsy is a way to obtain a small sample of the lining of the uterus — the endometrium.

How is endometrial biopsy done?

The woman lies in the same position used for a Pap test. A speculum is inserted into the vagina. The clinician gently inserts a thin biopsy instrument through the cervix into the uterus. It is sometimes necessary to put a grasping instrument on the cervix or use thin metal dilators to open the cervix. A sample of tissue is taken. The sample is sent to a laboratory to be examined under the microscope by a doctor. The findings are sent to Vermont Gynecology.

What will the endometrial biopsy feel like?

Some women feel discomfort when the speculum is inserted into the vagina — like having a Pap test. Most women will feel brief cramping during the biopsy. It may be mild or severe. Sometimes women feel dizzy or faint. You will be offered pain medication to help with cramping from the biopsy. There may be slight spotting or light bleeding after the endometrial biopsy.

Reasons for endometrial biopsy

Endometrial biopsy may be recommended for several reasons. It can evaluate abnormal bleeding from the uterus. It can detect abnormal or pre-cancerous cells in the uterus. It can determine if ovulation has occurred.

Benefits

Endometrial biopsy is a safe procedure. It can usually be performed in the office. You may not need any pain medicine. It may give a diagnosis that can be used to plan treatment or further tests.

Risks

It is unusual for women to have any serious problems from endometrial biopsy. The following may occur

- heavy bleeding that could require treatment
- infection that requires treatment
- puncture of the uterus with damage to abdominal organs
- disruption of an early, undiagnosed pregnancy
- in very rare cases, the biopsy will give a wrong result. No test is 100% accurate, therefore there is no guarantee that the diagnosis is correct.

Warning signs — Call the office right away if you have

- lower abdominal tenderness or pain
- severe cramping
- fever (temperature of 100.4° or higher)
- heavy bleeding

Alternatives

Other ways to evaluate the endometrium are with D&C (dilation and curettage) and/or hysteroscopy. No treatment or testing would also be an option. Let us know if you would like more information about these choices.

Consent

I have read and understand the above information. I know it is my choice to have this procedure or not. I can change my mind at any time.

I have been told how to obtain emergency care: Phone # 802-735-1252 (daytime)
OR 802-350-1260 (nights and weekends).

If there is an unexpected condition during the procedure, I request and authorize the clinician and Vermont Gynecology staff to do whatever is necessary to preserve my health and welfare.

I request that a person authorized by Vermont Gynecology provide appropriate evaluation and testing and perform the endometrial biopsy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____