

OR 714.922.4100 | SB 909.890.5511

Information for Informed Consent
CRYOTHERAPY OF THE CERVIX

What is cryotherapy?

Cryotherapy is a treatment for abnormal cells on the cervix. A very cold spray is put on the abnormal area to freeze the cells.

Before having cryotherapy, you need to know the most common benefits, risks, side effects, and other choices you have. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What are the benefits of cryotherapy?

- It is a safe and effective treatment for abnormal cells on the cervix. If not treated, over time they may lead to cervical cancer.

How well does cryotherapy work?

- About 85 out of 100 times, cryotherapy cures the problem. It may not work as well if the abnormal cells are deep inside the opening of the cervix and the freezing does not reach them. If this happens, you may need cryotherapy again or a different treatment.

What are the risks of cryotherapy?

It is rare to have problems. Risks are

- Heavy bleeding – This may require treatment with medicine or surgery.
- Infection – Most infections can be treated with medicines.
- Freeze burns in the vagina
- Cervical Stenosis (narrowing of the cervix)

What are the side effects of cryotherapy?

Side effects usually don't last long and don't need to be treated.

- Feeling lightheaded or fainting
- Cramping and pressure during the cryotherapy
- Heavy watery discharge from the vagina for a few days to several weeks. It may be blood-tinged.

Besides cryotherapy what other choices do I have?

Other treatments include destroying the cells with laser, or removing them with loop electrosurgical excision (LEEP) or surgery.

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We can talk about any of these options with you, and help you with whatever you decide to do.

What will happen to me during my cryotherapy?

You will lie on your back as you would for a Pap test. We will put a speculum in your vagina. A small instrument will be held to the area being treated for a few minutes. This is usually done twice, stopping for a few minutes in between.

What else do I need to know?

No promise can be made about the outcome of your cryotherapy. In the unlikely event that you need emergency medical care that cannot be provided at Planned Parenthood, you will be responsible for paying for it. This is the case even if Planned Parenthood sends you to a hospital because of a problem.

We will give you instructions on how to take care of yourself after cryotherapy.

Your health is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us. We are happy to help you.

Call us right away at OR 714.922.4122 | SB 909.915-2076 if you have

- A fever of 100.4° or higher
- Severe pain in the lower part of your belly
- Bad-smelling discharge from your vagina
- Heavy bleeding from your vagina

Signature of Patient (and person authorized to sign for patient when required)

Date

Relationship to Patient: self parent legal guardian other _____

I witness that the patient received this information, said it was read and understood, and there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Signature of Witness

Date