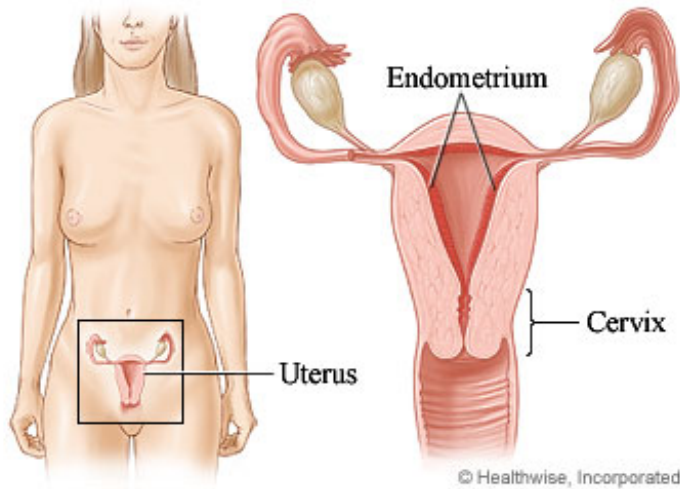


# Endometrial Biopsy: About This Test



## What is it?

An endometrial biopsy is a way for your doctor to take a small sample of the lining of the uterus (endometrium). The sample is looked at under a microscope for abnormal cells. An endometrial biopsy helps your doctor find problems in the endometrium.

## Why is this test done?

An endometrial biopsy is done to check for cancer of the uterus. The test is also done if you have abnormal bleeding from your uterus. The test results show how your body's hormones are affecting the lining of the uterus, such as during menopause.

## How do you prepare for the test?

- If you take aspirin or some other blood thinner, ask your doctor if you should stop taking it before your test. Make sure that you understand exactly what your doctor wants you to do. These medicines increase the risk of bleeding.
- Ask your doctor if you should take a pain reliever, such as ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), 30 to 60 minutes before the test. This can help reduce any cramping pain that the test can cause.

## How is the test done?

- You will lie on an exam table. Your feet will be in stirrups.
- The doctor may use a spray or injection to numb your cervix. The cervix is the opening to the uterus.
- The doctor will use a tool called a speculum to see the cervix.
- Then the doctor will pass a thin tube through the cervix to take a sample of the uterus lining.
- The sample is sent to a lab.

## How long does the test take?

The test will take about 5 to 15 minutes.

## What happens after the test?

- You will probably be able to go home right away.
- You likely will have mild vaginal bleeding and may have cramps for a few days after the test. The cramps may feel like bad menstrual cramps.

## How can you care for yourself at home?

- Ask your doctor if you can take an over-the-counter pain medicine, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve). Be safe with medicines. Read and follow all instructions on the label.
- Use pads or tampons for vaginal bleeding or discharge.
- You may return to all your usual activities (including sex) when you feel like it.

**Follow-up care is a key part of your treatment and safety.** Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if you are having problems. It's also a good idea to keep a list of the medicines you take. Ask your doctor when you can expect to have your test results.

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