

What is LLETZ?

LLETZ (**Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone**) is a procedure used to remove **abnormal cervical cells** from the cervix using a fine wire loop and **electrical current (diathermy)**. It is commonly performed to treat **precancerous changes** found during cervical screening.

Another similar procedure, a **cone biopsy**, involves the removal of a larger area of the cervix using a surgical knife (scalpel).

LLETZ can be done under **local or general anaesthesia**, depending on the individual case.

How is LLETZ Performed?

✅ The procedure takes about **15 minutes**. ✅ A small piece of the cervix is removed, and the base is **sealed with heat (diathermy) or stitches** to stop bleeding. ✅ The removed tissue is sent for **laboratory examination (histology)** to check for abnormal cells and determine if further treatment is needed. ✅ Most women **go home the same day** within a few hours.

Recovery After LLETZ

✅ **Mild cramping and dark vaginal discharge** are common after the procedure. ✅ Over the next few days, as the cervix heals, you may experience **light bleeding or a bloody discharge** lasting up to **4 weeks**. ✅ **Pain relief (e.g., paracetamol, ibuprofen)** will be provided. ✅ A **follow-up appointment** will be scheduled to discuss results and monitor healing.

! Activity Restrictions (4 Weeks)

- ✗ **Avoid swimming, sexual intercourse, and tampon use** to reduce the risk of infection.
 - ✗ **Monitor for signs of complications**, such as increasing pain, heavy bleeding, or fever.
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⚠️ What Are the Risks of LLETZ?

LLETZ is a safe and effective procedure, but complications can occur:

Common Risks

✅ **Mild bleeding and discharge** – Usually resolves within a few weeks. ✅ **Infection** – May require antibiotics if fever, foul-smelling discharge, or worsening pain develops.

Less Common but Serious Risks

- **Heavy bleeding** – In rare cases, a return to surgery may be needed to stop bleeding.
- **Cervical stenosis (narrowing of the cervix)** – May cause painful periods and require cervical widening.
- **Cervical weakness (incompetence)** – In some cases, the cervix may be unable to support a pregnancy, leading to **preterm labour or miscarriage**.
- **Incomplete removal of abnormal cells** – Some women may need **further procedures** if abnormal cells remain.
- **Recurrence of abnormal cells** – New changes may develop over time, requiring ongoing monitoring.

General Surgery Risks

- **Blood clots (DVT/PE), lung infections, or heart complications** – Very rare but possible risks of any surgical procedure.

! When to Seek Medical Attention

 Contact your doctor if you experience:

- **Severe abdominal pain** not relieved by medication
- **Heavy or prolonged bleeding**
- **Fever, chills, or foul-smelling vaginal discharge**
- **Difficulty urinating or severe discomfort**

Further Information & Support

For more details, visit:  **Queensland Health – Women's Health Services:** www.health.qld.gov.au  **RANZCOG (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists):** www.ranzcog.edu.au  **Northern Health – Gynaecology Services:** www.nh.org.au  **Your GP or healthcare provider**

◆ **LLETZ is a safe and effective treatment for abnormal cervical cells. If you have concerns, speak with your doctor.** 