What is Endometrial Ablation?

Endometrial ablation is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia). It works by removing or destroying the inner lining of the uterus (endometrium) to reduce or stop menstrual bleeding.

This procedure is not suitable for women who wish to become pregnant in the future. Pregnancy after endometrial ablation can lead to serious complications. **Permanent** contraception (such as tubal ligation) is strongly recommended.

How is the Procedure Done?

☑ The procedure is performed under general anaesthesia in an operating theatre. ☑ The cervix is widened to allow a **special device** to be inserted into the uterus. device applies heat or energy to the uterine lining, permanently damaging it. The procedure takes 15-30 minutes, and most women go home the same day.

Recovery After Endometrial Ablation

Same-day discharge – You can usually go home within a few hours. V Mild cramping – Similar to period pain, which can last a few days. ✓ Vaginal bleeding or **discharge** − This may last for a few weeks but should gradually decrease. ✓ **Follow-up appointment** – You will have a check-up around **6 weeks** after the procedure.

What Are the Risks?

Like any medical procedure, endometrial ablation carries some risks:

Common Risks

- Mild cramping and discomfort
- Watery or bloody vaginal discharge (lasting up to 2-4 weeks)
- Possible failure to relieve symptoms (some women may need additional treatment)

Less Common but Serious Risks

- Bleeding In rare cases, heavy bleeding may require a blood transfusion or a hysterectomy.
- **Infection** Treated with antibiotics if needed.
- Uterine perforation Accidental injury to the uterus, bladder, or bowel, which may require additional surgery.

• Anaesthesia risks – As with any surgery, risks include blood clots, heart complications, or lung infections.

! Important Safety Advice

Pregnancy after ablation is dangerous — It can lead to severe complications. Permanent contraception (such as tubal ligation) is recommended. ◆ This procedure does not prevent pregnancy, and contraception must still be used if required. ◆ Results vary — Some women experience reduced bleeding, while others may stop having periods completely.

 $^{\ \, \}bullet \,$ If you have any concerns about your recovery or symptoms, contact your doctor immediately. $\ \, \bigvee$