HEALTH SERVICES

NURSING PROCEDURE

TITLE: COLPOSCOPY
A. Assisting with Colposcopy
B. Assisting with LEEP
C. Assisting with Cryotherapy

CATEGORY: RN – General

PURPOSE

• Colposcopy is an examination of the cervix using a binocular microscope. It assists the clinician in diagnosing abnormal cells that may have been identified from Pap (Papanicolaou) smear screening. Colposcopy is performed by a gynecologist and assisted by a nurse.

A. Assisting with Colposcopy

EQUIPMENT

1. Vaginal speculum
2. Colposcopy tray (Sponge Forcep, Kevorkian Biopsy Forcep)
3. Cotton tipped applicators
4. Cyto brush and wooden spatula
5. Slides and fixation spray
6. Small specimen collection containers containing 10% Formalin
7. Labels with patient identification
8. Pathology and cytology requisitions
9. Non sterile gloves
10. Colposcope with spare bulb
11. Iodine solution
12. Ferric Sulphate solution
13. 5% acetic acid (vinegar)
14. Antiseptic Solution
15. Normal Saline
16. Silver Nitrate Stick
17. Basin of ice and wash cloths
18. Perineal pads
19. Discharge instructions (CEAC #0202, 0315, 0517, 1125)
PREPROCEDURE

1. Assess and document the following:
   - last normal menstrual period
   - current medications including oral contraception, prescription and over the counter medications
   - medication and latex allergies and reactions
   - time attended on pink admission sheet

2. Ensure consent has been signed by physician and patient, if applicable.

3. Offer patient education by means of verbal explanation (assessing for questions).

4. Administer pre-op medication(s) as ordered.

5. Encourage patient to empty bladder.

NURSING ALERT:

- Ensure release form has been signed and patient has a ride home if giving a sedative.

6. Call patient to procedure room from “Gowned Wait” room, by using two patient identifiers.

7. Assist patient onto gynecology table and into lithotomy position.

8. Assist physician by setting up a clean field and providing necessary equipment during exam.

POSTPROCEDURE

1. Offer patient a peri pad.

2. Offer verbal and written CEAC instructions for post-procedural care. Encourage patient to call with any questions or concerns.

3. Ask patient to sit for at least 5 minutes following procedure. Offer juice and cookies while waiting. Instruct to call (ring bell) if patient begins to feel dizzy or nauseated while waiting.


NURSING ALERT:

- Assess patient for vasovagal reaction.
- Accompany patient to her driver if a pre-procedure sedation has been given.
5. Ensure documentation is complete.

6. Ensure proper labeling of specimens for lab according to laboratory policy and place in bin for pick-up.

7. Clean gynecology table and colposcope with antiseptic cleaning wipes and set up for next procedure.

**B. Assisting with LEEP (Loop Electrical Excision Procedure)**

**PURPOSE**

- LEEP is a standard treatment for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN). The procedure uses a wire loop electrode that can excise and cauterize with minimal tissue damage.

**EQUIPMENT**

1. See “A. Assisting with Colposcopy”, and additionally:
2. Local anesthetic
3. 22 gauge spinal needle, blunt or filtered needle and control syringe
4. Insulated speculum
5. LEEP machine set to physicians desired cut and coagulation settings
6. Grounding pad
7. Cut/Coag pen
8. Suction tubing
9. Additional 4x4 gauze
10. LOOP electrode
11. Cautery Ball

**PRE-PROCEDURE**

In addition to “A. Assisting with Colposcopy”, the RN will:

1. Record Pre-operative vital signs.
2. Place grounding pad on patient’s thigh.
3. Attach suction tubing to LEEP machine and speculum.

**NURSING ALERT:**

- If gynecologist is using local anesthetic with epinephrine inform patient she can expect physiological sympathetic nervous system reactions (fight or flight). Provide reassurance and assess for vasovagal reaction.
POST-PROCEDURE

1. Ensure cut/coag settings, loop size, vital signs, cautery pad placement are all appropriately documented.

2. Have patient wait for a minimum of 5 minutes to ensure she does not feel faint.

3. Provide verbal and written CEAC discharge instructions.

4. Ensure proper labeling of specimens for lab according to laboratory policy and place in bin for pick-up.

5. Clean gynecology table and colposcope with antiseptic cleaning wipes and set up for next procedure.

C. Assisting with Cryotherapy

PURPOSE

- Cryotherapy is a treatment that freezes abnormal cells, identified by colposcopy. When sloughing of these cells occurs, normal cells are regenerated. Cryotherapy is performed by a gynecologist and assisted by a nurse. This procedure is performed during colposcopy.

EQUIPMENT

1. See “A. Assisting with Colposcopy”, and additionally:
2. Cryomedical equipment and tips
3. Full tank of Carbon Dioxide and regulator
4. Tubing

PRE-PROCEDURE

In addition to “A. Assisting with Colposcopy”, the nurse will:

1. Vent carbon dioxide by placing releasing tube into appropriate vent.

2. Fill line with carbon dioxide by holding tip into vent, turning tank open to line. Allow carbon dioxide to pass through for a few moments then close off line.

3. Apply tip and open line when physician is ready to begin procedure.
POST-PROCEDURE

1. Turn tank off and open line. Bleed line by holding tip into appropriate vent, this will clear line of any existing carbon dioxide.

2. Remove tip with gloves. A new tip must be used for each patient.

3. Have patient wait for a minimum of 5 minutes to ensure she does not feel faint.

4. Provide verbal and written CEAC discharge instructions.

5. Clean gynecology table and colposcope with antiseptic cleaning wipes and set up for next procedure.
REFERENCES


Revised by: Amanda Scallon, MSN, CDE
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