

Polypectomy

A polyp biopsy is a diagnostic procedure that takes a sample of or removes polyps (abnormal growths) for examination.

How the Test is Performed

Polyps are outgrowths of tissue that may be attached by a stalk-like structure (a pedicle). They are commonly found in organs with many blood vessels, such as the uterus, colon, and nose. Some polyps are cancerous (malignant) and likely to spread, while others are noncancerous (benign).

During the procedure, a small piece of the tissue that appears to be abnormal is removed. This tissue is sent to the laboratory, where technicians determine if the polyp is benign or malignant.

How the Test Will Feel

Generally only mild discomfort is felt. After the anesthetic wears off, the area may be sore for a few days.

Why the Test is Performed

The test is performed to determine if the growth is malignant (cancer).

Risks

Risks include:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Organ perforation (hole)

After the Procedure

You may be asked to apply an antibiotic ointment for a few days to prevent infection. You may have some soreness, skin irritation, or redness at the site for a few days. Applying the antibiotic ointment is helpful.

You may resume normal activities following the procedure.

Results

You will be asked to come back to the office for the results of the biopsy. At this visit the provider will inform you of the results and any further testing if needed.

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