

When do I know the Result?

Immediately after the examination, the doctor will explain the findings in full. If a biopsy or polyp has been removed at the time, it will be 2-3 weeks before the result is available. Either written confirmation of the result will be sent to you or a follow up visit to the clinic will be arranged before you leave.

What to do in an emergency?

In the unlikely event that you experience any heavy bleeding or severe pain, you should contact the clinic on 01727 823 111. If the clinic is not open, you should contact your own GP surgery or if out of hours, contact Barndoc on 020 88652040

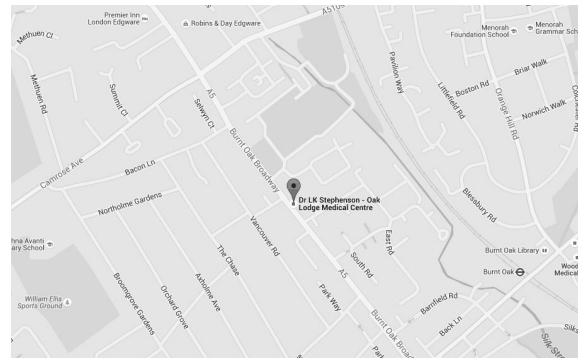
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A WAITING LIST FOR THIS PROCEDURE.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT PLEASE LET US KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW US TO OFFER THE DATE TO SOMEONE ELSE.

CLINIC LOCATION

**Oak Lodge Medical Centre,
234 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware,
HA8 0AP**

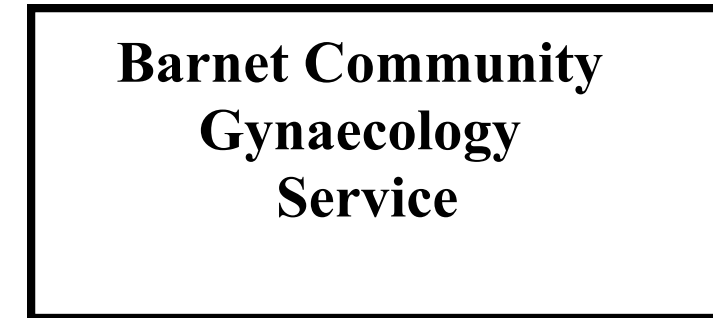
Tel: 01727 823 111



Parking is provided in the car park at the rear of the building, accessible from North Road. Please ask at reception for a parking permit.

Bus routes 32, 142, 204, 251, 292 stop outside or passes within walking distance.

A 10 minute walk from Burnt Oak Station on the Northern Line.



PRIMARY CARE

HYSTEROSCOPY

Please Read before
your procedure

What is a Hysteroscopy?

Hysteroscopy is a technique that allows a doctor to look directly into the womb with a thin telescope. It is passed gently through the cervix and attached to a camera so that a clear view of the inside of the womb is seen. You can also watch on the screen. A small biopsy can be taken if needed and small polyps or even lost coils can be removed.

We use state-of-the-art ultra-thin hysteroscopes which are much thinner than before and nowadays this procedure does not always require a hospital admission for a general anaesthetic.

Why do I need a hysteroscopy?

There are all sorts of reasons for having your womb looked at. Most commonly it is for heavy periods or abnormal bleeding during your cycle. It is also used to investigate bleeding after the menopause.

If you think you will be on a period and bleeding heavily then it is difficult to get a clear picture of the womb. We would ask that you discuss this with a clinic as soon as possible as you may need to re-schedule the date.

What should you expect?

Preparation:

You should take some simple painkillers such as ibuprofen 400mg tablet 1 hour beforehand unless you are unable to take anti-inflammatory medication for example if you have stomach ulcer or are asthmatic. In this case, we advise you to take paracetamol 2x500mg tablets. If you are uncertain, please telephone the clinic so that we can advise you.

Procedure:

The procedure itself should take about 5-10mins. If any minor procedures need to be done then this may take a little longer. You should anticipate being at the clinic for about an hour in total. Water is used to give us a clear picture and you may feel this trickling out during the test.

Does it hurt?

You may feel a little period-like discomfort rather than pain which will be helped by the painkillers you have already taken beforehand. If needed, some local anaesthetic can be used in the cervix but the telescopes are so delicate that some patients hardly notice it.

What happens next?

You can relax in the clinic with a cup of tea if you wish and can then go home. Some patients prefer to have someone with them to take them home but this is not essential. You may experience some period-like pain for 24hrs afterwards but some simple painkillers will help.

Is it safe?

In the UK, many women have their womb investigated in this way and very few problems have been encountered. On rare occasions it may cause an infection and some heavy bleeding which should settle with a course of antibiotics. Very rarely, the camera may make a tiny hole in the womb but this usually heals well and does not cause any longterm problems.

Pregnancy:

It is essential that you avoid sexual intercourse in that cycle or use contraception. If there is any chance of being pregnant, the procedure will not go ahead. You will also be required to have a pregnancy test on the day of your procedure.