

Vaginal Examination Under Anaesthesia

Information for patients



You are due to attend hospital for a Gynaecology Procedure. During your procedure, a vaginal examination under anaesthetic may be required by your doctors as part of your procedure.

This is a pelvic examination which is carried out while you are asleep. Your doctor will consent for this and discuss the clinical need for your examination and your preferences prior to your procedure.

Why do I need a vaginal examination under anaesthetic (EUA)?

Your doctor may need to perform a vaginal examination under anaesthetic (EUA) to examine the vulva, vagina, cervix and uterus in order to help further investigate your condition and make further decisions about your symptoms or surgical procedure.

Whilst you are asleep, during the anaesthetic, the doctor will be able to examine you more thoroughly. The examination may include:

- Examination of your vulva (the outside genitalia).
- Manual examination by gently inserting a finger or 2 fingers into the vagina and assess the size of the womb or any pelvic masses.

- The use of a speculum (instrument used during a routine smear test) to examine the neck of the womb (cervix).

All gynaecological procedures assess the pelvis to ensure there are no pelvic masses or any untoward findings.

Urogynaecology

If you have already had a diagnosis of a pelvic floor prolapse- these investigations will give your medical team a much better understanding of the type and extend of prolapse and plan the best possible treatment and surgery for you.

If you have symptoms of pelvic or vulval pain, an examination can help further detect any possible causes contributing to your symptoms without the discomfort during anaesthetic.

During laparoscopy

As part of your laparoscopy (key hole surgery), it may be necessary to insert an instrument into the uterus (your womb) to help visualise the organs within your pelvis better and help move the uterus to aid your surgery during your procedure.

During a laparoscopic hysterectomy, instrumentation of the uterus helps assist your procedure and aid removal of the womb at the end of the procedure vaginally.

During Hysteroscopy

An examination can help give information about your symptoms- such as source of abnormal or irregular bleeding and to assess the tilt of the womb to allow safe passage of the hysteroscope camera to visualise the womb.

Prior to hysterectomy

A pelvic exam can help determine the type and size of incision needed for your surgery depending on the size of the womb/ pelvic mass. This information is needed at time of your surgery to appropriate prepare for your operation.

Your doctor can provide more information for you regarding vaginal examination you may need during your procedure. If you wish to decline a vaginal examination, this can be discussed with your team and a decision made based on your preferences and clinical need for examination on the day of your procedure.

What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

Your views matter



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