



Attending the Gynaecology Fast Track Clinic at Barnsley Hospital

Why have I been referred to hospital?

You have been referred to the clinic on a two-week wait pathway by your GP because you have experienced one of the following problems:

- Abnormal bleeding following the menopause
- Abnormal bleeding whilst on HRT
- An abnormality on a pelvic ultrasound
- A lump or itching on your vulva (the folds of skin around the entrance to your vagina)

We understand that you may be concerned that this means that you have cancer. The majority of patients referred to the fast-track clinic do not have cancer, but may have another non-cancerous condition that we need to treat.

Who will I see in the clinic?

Several doctors and nurses who are experienced in gynaecology work in this clinic. There may be male or female clinicians present. The clinic will be supervised by a specialist consultant in gynaecological cancer.

Barnsley Hospital is a teaching hospital where medical and nursing students come to learn. The doctor may ask you if students can be present during your appointment. However, if you do not want students there, please let us know. This will not affect your care.

On the day of the appointment:

- You may have several investigations during this one appointment. Therefore, you should allow up to 3 hours for your clinic appointment.
- We would encourage you to bring someone with you to your appointment. This could be a partner, relative or friend who could help you to remember the information given to you and support you if you feel unwell.
- Please bring a list of any tablets or medications that you take.
- You should still come to your appointment if you are bleeding or are having a period.

What sort of tests or investigations might I have?

During the appointment, the doctor will ask you about your medical history and symptoms. The tests that you require will depend on your symptoms. You may need to have more than one test or investigation, but it is unlikely that you will need them all.



The investigations that we may perform in the clinic are:

- **Ultrasound Scan** – This is a painless test which uses sound waves to show a picture of your pelvic organs. There are two different types of ultrasound scan and you may need to have both. One involves placing an ultrasound probe on your abdomen (tummy) and the other involves placing an ultrasound probe inside the vagina.
- **Pelvic Examination** – The doctor will insert a speculum to open the vaginal walls (the same device that is used for cervical smears). This is to allow the doctor to check the vagina and cervix (neck of womb). This may be uncomfortable but should not be painful. A nurse will be there to support you.
- **Hysteroscopy** – This involves inserting a thin telescope (camera) through the cervix (neck of the womb) to look inside the uterus (womb). The clinician will use a saline solution to get a better view. This may make you feel wet and can cause some abdominal discomfort. Some women may find the procedure painful. The options of local anaesthetic or general anaesthetic will be discussed with you in clinic. If you would like further information on this procedure, please visit the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists website at: <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/patients/patient-leaflets/outpatient-hysteroscopy/>
- **Endometrial Biopsy** – We may take a biopsy (a sample of cells) from the lining of your womb using a thin plastic device. This may be done with or without hysteroscopy. The sample will be sent to the laboratory to be checked under a microscope.
- **Vulval Biopsy** – If you have a lump that does not go away, or an area of skin that is itchy or sore on your vulva (the folds of skin around the entrance to your vagina), we may need to take a biopsy. This will involve taking a sample of the skin to be sent to be checked under a microscope. You will be given a local anaesthetic injection to numb the area. Further information about vulval skin conditions is available here: <https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/gynaecology/skin-conditions-of-the-vulva.pdf>
- **Blood tests** – You may need a blood test. This will be done whilst you are in the department on the same day.

After your appointment:

After your consultation and investigations, we will discuss with you any findings and the next step in your treatment. A follow-up appointment may be arranged. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

A recovery room with refreshments is available. Once you feel well enough, you will be able to leave the department.



When will I find out the results of my test?

This will depend on the investigations that are performed. We will either ask for a follow-up appointment or we will send you and your general practitioner a letter to inform you of the results.

Contact Details:

Gynaecology Outpatients

Available 08:30-17:00 Monday – Thursday and 08:30-13:00 on Friday.
Contact number: 01226 432217

Gynaecology Inpatient Ward

Available 24 hours a day.
Contact number: 01226 432261

Comments and concerns:

For advice, support or to raise any concerns, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

Contact number: 01226 432330

Email address: barnsleypals@nhs.net

We look forward to meeting you at your appointment.