**Colposcopy**

About 1 in 10 women will be referred for an” abnormal pap smear “ or an “abnormal looking” cervix in their life time. While this is very distressing for many women, please rest assured that the vast majority will not have cervical cancer.

**What Will Happen**

An Appointment will be made for you to see me in my rooms. I practice from the Mater Hospital in Rockhampton from the Kenmore Medical Centre. I meet all of my women and will go through your medical history in detail. Please note that although this seems very intrusive I need to provide you with the best care possible.

After completing your history I will examine the cervix similar to a pap smear but a bit different. I initially look at the cervix as your GP or nurse does, I then will examine the cervix with a microscope called a colposcope (rest assured although it looks scary it doesn’t do anything) I will then apply a vinegar solution (acetic acid) to the cervix. The vinegar makes any abnormal cells light up for us.

If there are abnormal areas I will then take a small nibble of cervix with a special biopsy forceps. This is usually not a painful procedure; you may feel some pressure during the examination. It is normal to have campy- period like pain for about an hour post procedure.

Post procedure I will discuss what I have seen and after care. You may have some light bleeding or dark discharge from the vagina post procedure- this is normal

**Results**

I like to see all of my women back in the rooms in about a week to discuss your results. At this time we will discuss if further management is required or if surveillance (keeping an eye on things) appropriate.

