

Investigation for Unexpected and Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding

1. Why Have You Been Referred to Hospital?

Some women over 45 have unexpected or unusual vaginal bleeding. Most of the time this is not serious, but a small number of women (about 3 out of 100) may have cancer in the lining of the womb, or in the ovaries or cervix. This means it is important to check what is causing the bleeding.

The WID-easy test is a new, simple swab taken from the vagina. It can show if you are at high risk of endometrial (womb) cancer. The swab is quick and less invasive than other tests. If your result is negative, your chance of having endometrial cancer is very low (less than 0.4%).

2. What Will Happen at Your Appointment

You will be invited to a clinic to see a specially trained Gynaecology nurse. When you arrive, they will check your height and weight. You will then fill in a short form about your bleeding and your general health.

Please bring details of any HRT you are taking to the appointment.

The nurse will offer you an internal examination using a small plastic instrument called a speculum, the same tool used for a smear test. The nurse will look at your cervix and take the WID-easy swab. Taking the swab takes about 10 seconds.

Your swab is tested in a laboratory for changes in DNA linked to cancer. Your results should be ready in around 1 week.

Please avoid sexual intercourse for 24 hours before the test as this may confuse the result.

3. After the Test

- If your result is negative, then your risk of endometrial cancer is very low. You will get a follow-up phone call within 8 weeks to check if the bleeding has stopped. Most women, around 75%, do not need any more tests or appointments unless symptoms continue.
- If your result is positive, then this means that you are at higher risk of cancer. You will be given an urgent appointment with a Gynaecology doctor for investigations.

4. Need Help or Have a Question?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Royal Alexandra Hospital, Clinic B 01413146719

Inverclyde Royal Hospital, L Centre 01475504542