



What is a pipelle?

A pipelle is a minor procedure carried out in the Women's Health Clinic where the doctor takes a small sample of tissue from the inside lining of the womb.

What does a pipelle involve?

Firstly a speculum is gently placed in the vagina to enable the doctor to see the cervix. A very fine plastic tube called a pipelle is then inserted through the cervix into the womb. You may notice a cramping sensation as the pipelle goes into the womb. This is caused by a small sphincter (valve) which is naturally there to stop infection entering the womb. (Sometimes an instrument called a tenaculum is used. This stops the cervix from moving during the procedure. You may feel a short sharp nipping pain if this is used.)

When the sample from the womb is obtained it is placed in a small formalin specimen pot and sent to the laboratory. A copy of the result comes back to the doctor who sees you in clinic and a copy is sent to your general practitioner (GP).

What has pipeline

- irregular uterine bleeding
- post menopausal bleeding
- a thickened endometrium noted on pelvic scan
- heavy periods

What can I expect after the procedure?

You may have some cramping menstrual type pains for a short time. The nurse will give you pain relief if you need this before you leave the clinic.

Take panadol 1 gm four hourly if necessary.

Using a hot water bottle or wheat pack on your abdomen may help.

You may have light bleeding for two to three days.

Do not wear tampons. Wear a sanitary pad until the bleeding stops.

Avoid baths, swimming pools, spa pools and sexual intercourse for 24 hours.

Ongoing pain and / or smelly vaginal discharge may indicate infection has occurred. Please follow this up with your GP as you may require antibiotics.

If you have any problems or questions please call the team at ASC Gynaecology.

