



**EMORY**  
UNIVERSITY

**Student Health  
and Counseling Services**

## **COLPOSCOPY**

If you are scheduled for a colposcopy, then there are some things you should know prior to your procedure.

The most common reason to have a colposcopy is because of abnormal pap test results. Remember that a pap test is a screening test performed on a large population and takes a sample of cells from the cervix. A colposcopy is a diagnostic test used to locate abnormal appearing tissue and direct biopsies to areas that are suspicious, giving more specific information about the abnormality and a tissue diagnosis.

### **FIND OUT MORE!**

You may find it helpful to read the material about colposcopies found at the American Society of Colposcopists and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP). Please use the web link:

[http://www.asccp.org/pdfs/patient\\_edu/colposcopy\\_20090416.pdf](http://www.asccp.org/pdfs/patient_edu/colposcopy_20090416.pdf)

### **WHAT DO I DO BEFORE THE PROCEDURE?**

Relax. While the procedure will take a little longer, the concept is the same as having a pap smear. If biopsies are taken, you may have cramping during or after the procedure. Because there is no way to predict who will get biopsies, it is a good idea to take 800 mg Ibuprofen 30 minutes prior to the procedure.

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