Breast ultrasound

**Purpose and Description:** This examination uses high-frequency sound waves passing through tissues to detect masses in the breast. May be performed if lesions are identified in a mammogram.

**Related Nursing Care:** No special preparation is needed.

### Tests of the Internal Reproductive System

#### Name of Test: Breast Biopsy

**Purpose and Description:**
- Fine-needle aspiration
- Core needle biopsy
- Vacuum-assisted mammotome
- Large core surgical biopsy
- Open surgical biopsy

**Intravenous Access:**
- A fine-needle aspiration is conducted to withdraw fluid from cysts, and may be used to sample cells from masses in the breast. A 22- to 25-gauge needle is used to collect five to six samples of fluid or cells.
- A core needle biopsy is conducted to obtain a sample of tissue from a solid mass or calcium deposits in the breast. A 10-, 11-, or 12-gauge needle is used to collect five to six tissue samples.
- A vacuum-assisted mammotome is primarily used to evaluate calcifications. An 11- or 14-gauge needle is inserted through a small (1/4-inch) incision and 5 to 10 samples are removed.
- A large core surgical biopsy is performed to evaluate breast masses or calcification identified with a mammogram but nonpalpable. An incision is made and a 5- to 20-mm cylinder of breast tissue (about the size of a wine cork) is removed.
- An open surgical biopsy is performed to evaluate breast masses, hard-to-reach lesions, multiple lesions, and masses with calcifications. A 1.5- to 2-inch incision is made and a golf ball size (or larger) area of tissue is removed.

**Related Nursing Care:** For all types, wearing a bra, applying ice packs, and mild analgesics decrease discomfort postprocedure.
- Explain that, depending on the physician, some procedures may be performed with or without a local anesthetic.
- Explain that a general anesthetic is used, but no stitches are required for a core needle biopsy or mammotome.
- Explain that a local anesthetic will be administered and stitches will be used to close the incision for a large-core biopsy.
- Explain that a general anesthetic is usually used and that the incision will require stitches and leave a scar for an open surgical biopsy.

#### Name of Test: Ultrasound (Abdominal, Vaginal)

**Purpose and Description:** This uses transducer gel and a graphic visualization is made. For a vaginal ultrasound, a transducer is covered with a condom or vinyl glove coated with transducer gel and then introduced into the vagina.

**Related Nursing Care:** Explain need to increase intake of fluids and tell the woman not to void until the test is completed to ensure a full bladder (this lifts the pelvic organs higher in the abdomen and improves visualization).

#### Name of Test: Hysterosalpingogram

**Purpose and Description:** Used to diagnose causes of infertility and abnormalities of the uterus or fallopian tubes. A contrast medium is instilled through the cervix, through the uterus, and out the fallopian tubes while x-rays are taken.

**Related Nursing Care:** Assess for allergy to seafood (iodine) or previous contrast media. Explain that the procedure is briefly painful.

#### Name of Test: Colposcopy

**Purpose and Description:** Conducted to further study abnormal Pap tests, and as screening for women exposed to intrauterine DES. A binocular microscope is used to directly visualize the cervix.

**Related Nursing Care:** No special preparation is needed.

#### Name of Test: Conization, Loop Electrosurgical Excision of Transformation Zone (LEEP)

**Purpose and Description:** A conization, LEETZ, or LEEP is performed to remove cervical tissue for evaluation (most often for cervical cancer). A cone-shaped area of tissue surrounding the cervical os is removed.

**Related Nursing Care:** Explain that the procedure requires general anesthesia. Postoperative self-care includes rest for 2 to 3 days. Explain that minor vaginal bleeding and discharge are expected for several days after the procedures; perineal pads (not tampons) should be used. Sexual intercourse should be avoided until discharge stops. Notify physician of increased bleeding or signs of infection (pain, foul-smelling discharge, fever) occur.

#### Name of Test: Endometrial Biopsy

**Purpose and Description:** Performed to identify endometrial hyperplasia or endometrial cancer. The cervix is cleaned and tissue is obtained transcervically from the endometrium either by curettage or vacuum aspiration.

**Related Nursing Care:** Explain that the procedure is briefly painful, and causes vaginal bleeding. Advise to use perineal pads, and avoid tampons and sexual intercourse while bleeding.

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