Information for Informed Consent
Cervical Polyp Removal

What Is a Cervical Polyp?
Your cervix is the canal that connects your vagina to your uterus. Cervical polyps are small, finger-like growths that form on your cervix. Usually there is only one at a time, but here may be two or three. They are almost always not cancer and the reason they form is not completely understood.

What do Cervical Polyps Do?
Sometimes the cervical polyp does not cause any problems. Often, the polyp bleeds and causes spotting after intercourse or bleeding in between periods. For older women, cervical polyps may cause vaginal bleeding after menopause. It is also possible the polyp could get infected and cause unusual vaginal discharge.

When Should Cervical Polyps Be Removed?
Cervical polyps should be removed when they bleed or if they are infected. Because they are not cancer, they can be left alone, but because they can cause bleeding they are usually removed. Sometimes, the cervical polyp may come back after it is removed.

How Do They Remove Cervical Polyps?
You lay down in the same way you would for a Pap test. We will put a speculum into your vagina. The polyp is removed by gently twisting the polyp, tying it tightly at the base, or removing it with a special instrument. A liquid is applied to the base of the polyp to stop any bleeding. The polyp is sent to a laboratory for testing after it is removed to make sure is not a cancer.

What Does Removing a Cervical Polyp Feel Like?
- No pain medication is necessary.
- You may feel pressure when we put the speculum in.
- You may feel mild cramping while the polyp is being removed.
- You may have mild cramping for 2 to 3 hours after the polyp is removed.
- Spotting of blood from the vagina may occur for 2 to 3 days after the polyp is removed.
- Sometimes a coffee ground or yellowish discharge can happen for a few days from the liquid we use to stop the bleeding.

Risks
It is rare to have problems after removing a cervical polyp. You might have
- heavy bleeding that needs to be treated in the health center, an emergency room, or the hospital
- an infection that needs to be treated

After Removal of the Cervical Polyp:
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- Wait about three days to allow the cervix to heal before having vaginal sex.
- Take your medicines as usual. This includes your birth control.
- You may shower or bathe as soon as you want.
- You may use a tampon; unless you are told otherwise at the time of the polyp removal.

WARNING SIGNS — Call the health center if you have
- bleeding that’s heavier than spotting — unless you think it’s your period
- severe pain in the lower part of your belly
- fever or chills
- heavy, yellow, or bad-smelling discharge from your vagina

Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties
700 South Tustin Street
Orange, CA 92866

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER
ORANGE 714.922.4122 | SAN BERNARDINO 909.915.2076

Patient signature ___________________________________________Date ________________________

I witness the client received this information, said she read and understood it, and had an opportunity to ask questions.

Witness signature __________________________________________Date _________________________