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PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Decision Summary: Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP)

The B.C. Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP) Expert Committee reviewed whether L**oop Electrosurgical Excision Procedures (LEEP)** are aerosol generating. The AGMP Expert Committee conducted a literature review to identify relevant primary evidence, review articles, and guidelines/recommendations from governing bodies, medical societies and other expert groups. The search results were assessed for evidence quality and source using the provincial AGMP decision framework. The expert group does not provide personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance.

The AGMP Expert Committee determined that the **Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP)** is a **Probable AGMP.**

Summary

The Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) is a minimally invasive procedure performed in hospital Operating Rooms, physician offices, or outpatient clinics. The LEEP removes abnormal tissue from the cervix for diagnosis and treatment of precancerous changes (cervical dysplasia) or early-stage cervical cancer. A thin wire loop carrying electric current (low-voltage, high-frequency radio waves) is used to excise tissue.

Compared to laser, electrosurgery may cause less tissue destruction but can release more intact cells, including viral DNA, which may increase infectious risk. While positive viral DNA tests do not confirm infectivity or disease, precautionary AGMP measures are recommended.

Therefore, following discussion at the March 3, 2025 AGMP meeting and the final voting poll concluded on June 10, 2025, the group determined that LEEP is a “Probable AGMP.”

References

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