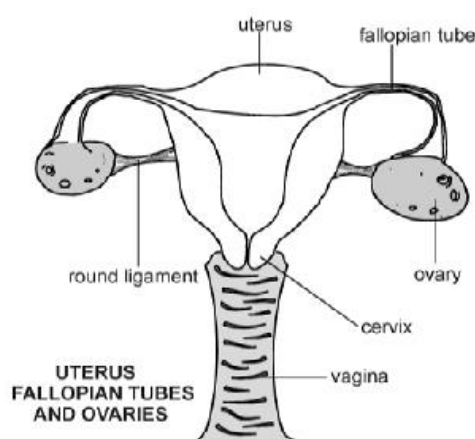


Patient Information – Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

Department of Radiology

What is a hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

This is a special X-ray test of your uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes. It is similar to having a smear test and will be performed by a radiologist with a nurse and radiographer assisting.



What are the benefits?

A HSG is commonly performed on women who have been unable to get pregnant. It is a minimally invasive procedure which shows whether the uterus is normal and if the fallopian tubes are open or blocked. The results allow your doctor to decide the most appropriate treatment for you.

Are there any risks from the procedure?

A HSG is a very safe procedure carried out under sterile conditions; however a few risks or complications can arise, as with any medical treatment.

Pelvic infection - There is a small risk of infection if your fallopian tubes are found to be blocked. To prevent any infection the radiologist will prescribe an antibiotic.

Contrast allergy - A HSG involves having a contrast medium (a dye) introduced into your uterus. The contrast medium contains iodine. You must inform Radiology if you are allergic to iodine. There is an extremely small risk of an allergic reaction to the contrast medium, such as a skin rash. The radiology staff are trained to deal with any reactions and the risk involved is very small.

Radiation -The radiation dose is very low and is outweighed by the benefits of having this procedure.

Pregnancy - If you are pregnant when the HSG is performed the X-rays could potentially cause a miscarriage or foetal abnormalities. Therefore, it is important to ensure you are **not pregnant** at the time of the examination.

How is the appointment arranged?

It is **essential** that you are **not pregnant** when the HSG is performed, therefore you will be sent a letter asking you to telephone the Radiology Department on the first day of your period. If you do not have regular periods you will be asked to make contact as soon as you receive this letter. A radiology nurse will contact you within 5 days to arrange your appointment date and a pregnancy test. The pregnancy test will be performed in the Radiology Department immediately before the HSG. An appointment confirmation letter will be sent by post.

Are there any special preparations?

To ensure that you are **not pregnant** when the HSG is performed, it must be carried out within the first 10 days from the onset of your last period. The HSG cannot be performed whilst you are menstruating so your period must have stopped by at least one day before your appointment.

If you have regular periods you will need to abstain from sexual intercourse from the first day of your period until after the HSG has been performed. If you do not have regular periods you will need to abstain from sexual intercourse for the 2 weeks before your appointment to obtain a reliable pregnancy test result. Your doctor will arrange for you to have a chlamydia test before you come for your HSG. If your test results are positive, the infection should be treated by antibiotics before the HSG is performed.

Will the procedure be painful?

You may feel some discomfort similar to a period pain as the contrast medium is introduced. This will settle once the HSG has finished. You may wish to take a simple painkiller (e.g. paracetamol, Ibuprofen) 30 minutes beforehand. Please let the radiologist/nurse know if you have taken any medication.

When you arrive for your appointment

You will be booked in at reception and directed to a cubicle to undress (including your underwear) and put on a hospital gown. You may bring your own dressing gown if you wish.

What happens during the procedure?

You will be taken into the X-ray room where we will confirm your period dates with you and perform a pregnancy test if appropriate. **The HSG will not be performed if pregnancy is suspected.**

The procedure will be fully explained to you. You will be asked to lie on the X-ray couch in a similar position to the one used for a smear test. The radiologist will place an instrument called a speculum into your vagina in order to see the cervix. A small, thin catheter will be passed through the cervix and contrast will be introduced along this to fill the uterus and fallopian tubes.

As this happens, X-rays will be used to produce images on a TV monitor in the room. The catheter and speculum can then be removed. This part of the procedure should take approximately 20 minutes.

After the procedure

You will be given a sanitary pad to wear as it is normal to have some bleeding and a sticky discharge of contrast for a few hours after the procedure. If you experience prolonged bleeding, severe abdominal pain, abnormal discharge or fever within the week following the HSG you should contact your GP.

Can I bring a relative/friend to my appointment?

Yes, a relative or a friend may accompany you to the department, but they will not be allowed into the scan room. **Please do not bring young children with you.**

When will I receive my results?

The radiologist will study the images and send a report to your referring doctor.

Feedback

When you attend your hospital appointment you should be offered the Friends and Family Test survey asking you the question, **“How likely are you to recommend our service to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?”** - We welcome your comments about what was good about your visit and what would have made your experience better. Your feedback is anonymous and is used to help improve the services we provide to all our patients.

Contact details:

Radiology Department
Lister Hospital
Coreys Mill Lane
Stevenage
Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

Telephone: 01438 284030

Date of publication: October 2010
Author: J. Charlwood & D. Piper
Reference: 31b V4 (July 2019)
Review Date: July 2022
© East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

