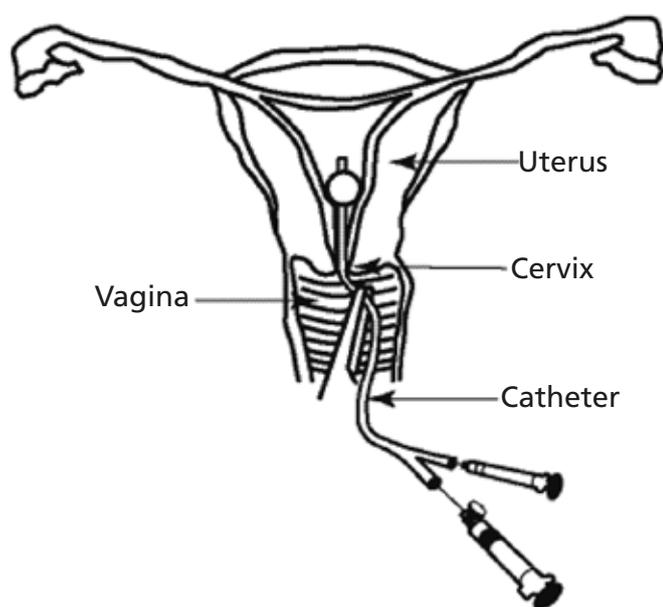


Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

What is a hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

It is a special x-ray examination that checks whether your fallopian tubes are blocked or damaged and causing your problems with getting pregnant.



What does the procedure involve?

The radiographer performing the HSG will explain the procedure to you in detail and answer any questions you may have. They will ask you to provide a urine sample before the procedure for a pregnancy test to make sure that you are not pregnant.

This procedure is performed in a similar position to when you have a smear test. A speculum (the same instrument as used for a smear test) will be inserted into the vagina and the cervix cleaned with a swab. A small tube will be passed through the cervix into the cavity of the womb and a small balloon will be inflated to hold it in place.

The X-ray machine will be moved into place and then the dye will be injected while the X-rays are being taken. You may feel some period-type pains while the balloon is inflated and during the injection of the dye.

Preparing for your HSG

It is very important that you aren't pregnant when having the HSG. For this reason we ask you not to have sexual intercourse from the first day of your menstrual cycle (period) until you have the procedure. The test is carried out in the first part of your menstrual cycle, once you have stopped bleeding (around days 5-10). Your fertility consultant will request the test and then the X-ray department will contact you, asking you to call them when your period starts, to arrange the appointment. The HSG usually takes approximately 20mins but expect to be in the X-ray department for about an hour in total.

The procedure can be uncomfortable (period-type pains) and for this reason we suggest you take some pain relief 30mins to 1 hour before the procedure (e.g. paracetamol and / or ibuprofen). Any pain will settle soon after the procedure.

What happens after the procedure?

You will need to use a sanitary towel as it is normal to have some bleeding and discharge for a few hours after the test. You will be given some time to rest before you feel ready to leave. You can return to normal activities as soon as your pain has settled.

The results of the test may be discussed with you briefly at the time, but you will get the full result at your next clinic appointment.

What are the risks with an HSG?

Pregnancy

The dye used for the procedure may harm the fetus. This is why it is important to follow the guidance on avoiding sexual intercourse before the procedure.

Pain

You may experience some 'periodtype' pain during the procedure.

Infection

There is a small risk of infection. If you are considered to be at a risk of infection, you will be given a course of antibiotics.

Allergy

It is extremely rare but it is possible to have an allergic reaction to the X-ray contrast. It is important you let the Consultant Radiologist know if you have any allergies.

Fainting

A small number of patients will feel faint following the procedure although it is rare to actually faint. This is why you are asked to spend a short time resting before you leave the department.

Important:

You should contact your consultant, GP or go to your nearest A&E if you experience any of the following:

- a raised temperature or fever
- persistent heavy bleeding
- offensive vaginal discharge
- severe or increasing pain that does not go away with regular painkillers

This information leaflet is intended to be a general guide only. If you have any further questions then please ask your Fertility Consultant or the Consultant Radiologist in the X-ray department.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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