

HSG

What is Hysterosalpingography?

Hysterosalpingography is an x-ray examination of a woman's uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes that uses a special form of x-ray called fluoroscopy and a contrast solution (Dye), that is injected through the neck of the womb.

When the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes are filled with a contrast solution (Dye) the radiologist is able to view and assess the anatomy and function of the uterus (womb).

Why it is done?

HSG is primarily used to examine women who have difficulty becoming pregnant by allowing the radiologist to evaluate the shape and structure of the uterus (womb), the viability of the fallopian tubes, and any scarring of the tubes or uterus. The procedure can be used to investigate the reason for repeated miscarriages that result from congenital abnormalities of the uterus and to determine the presence and severity of these uterine

- scarring in the womb
- uterine fibroids

HSG can also be used to monitor the effects of tubal surgery, including:

- tubal ligation
- the re-operating of the fallopian tubes following a sterilization reversal
- or post surgery following disease-related obstruction

How should I prepare for the procedure?

To make certain that you are not pregnant during the exam, the HSG procedure is best cycle, once the menstrual bleeding has stopped.

This procedure should not be performed if you have an active inflammatory condition.

You should notify your physician or radiographer if you have a chronic pelvic infection or an untreated sexually transmitted disease, at the time of the procedure.

You should inform the x-ray department of any medications you are taking and if you have any allergies, especially to contrast solution (Dye). Also inform them about recent illnesses or other medical conditions.

You will be asked to remove clothing from the waist down including your underwear and to wear a gown during the exam. You may also be asked to remove jewellery, eye glasses and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the x-ray images.

Women should always inform their physician or radiographer if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

This examination is usually done on an outpatient basis. One does not need to fast prior to the procedure.

How the procedure is performed?

The patient is positioned on her back on the exam table, with her knees pulled to her chest. A speculum is then inserted into the cervix (neck of the womb).

The contrast solution (Dye) then begins to fill the uterine cavity through the canula and fluoroscopic images are taken.

When the procedure is complete, the canula will be removed and the patient will be allowed to sit up.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

This exam should cause only minor discomfort. Some women feel a sharp period like pain which ceases after a couple of minutes. There may be slight discomfort when the canula is placed and the contrast solution (Dye) is injected, but it should not last long. There may also be slight irritation of the abdominal cavity, causing generalized lower abdominal pain, but this should also be minimal and not long lasting

Risks

Include infection, bleeding and allergic reaction.

Limitations

HSG only sees inside the uterus and fallopian tubes. Abnormalities of the ovaries, wall of the uterus, and other pelvic structures may be evaluated with MRI, Ultrasound or Laparoscopy.

After the procedure

You may experience pain +/- or cramping for a few hours post procedure. Please take pain relief that is available to you at home such as paracetamol or solpadiene if you are not allergic. If severe pain or temperature occurs within 7 days contact the Emergency room, in the Rotunda Hospital on 01 8171700. It is expected that you will have vaginal discharge for the next few days but do not use tampons for same. It is advised to refrain from sexual intercourse for a day or two post the HSG procedure.

X-ray Department

For appointments

Ring or email the x-ray department on the first day of your period.

Contact

X-ray Department, Rotunda Hospital

01 - 8171741

hsg@rotunda.ie

Monday - Tuesday 9pm - 4pm

Wednesday - Friday 9pm - 1pm