



HSG

What is a Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

A HSG is an x-ray examination of your uterus and fallopian tubes that uses a type of live x-ray called fluoroscopy along with a contrast solution, which is introduced through the neck of the uterus.

When the uterus and fallopian tubes are filled with the contrast solution, the radiologist is able to view and assess the anatomy and structure of the uterus.

Why is it done?

HSGs are primarily used to examine women who have difficulty becoming pregnant by allowing the radiologist to evaluate the shape and structure of the uterus, the viability of the fallopian tubes, and any scarring of the tubes and uterus. The procedure can investigate congenital abnormalities of the uterus and determine the presence and severity of these abnormalities, including:

- Scarring in the uterus
- 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 sterilisation reversal
- Post-surgery following a disease-related obstruction

How should I prepare?

To make sure that you are not pregnant during the procedure, the HSG exam is performed between day 6 and day 10 of your menstrual cycle, once the menstrual bleeding has stopped.

This procedure should not be performed if you have an active inflammatory condition. You should notify the x-ray department prior to the procedure if you have a chronic pelvic infection or an untreated sexually transmitted infection.

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

Before the exam, you will be asked to enter a changing room and remove any clothing from the waist down including your underwear, and to put on a gown for the examination.

You should always inform the doctor or radiographer if there is any possibility that you are pregnant.

HSG examinations are usually done on an outpatient basis. You do not need to fast prior to the procedure.

How is the procedure performed?

You will be positioned on your back on the exam table, with your knees bent and separated. A speculum is then inserted into the cervix (neck of the uterus), followed by a special catheter (a thin, plastic tube).

The contrast solution then begins to fill the uterine cavity through the catheter and fluoroscopic images are taken. When the procedure is complete, the catheter will be removed and you will be allowed to sit up. The procedure may feel similar to a cervical screening (smear) test.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

The exam should only cause minor discomfort. Some women feel a sharp, period-like pain which ceases after a couple of minutes. There may be slight discomfort when the catheter is placed and the contrast solution is introduced, but it should not last long. There may also be slight irritation of the abdominal cavity, causing some lower abdominal pain, but this should not be severe or long lasting.

Risks

There are minor risks of infection, bleeding and allergic reaction to the contrast dye. Although these are rare, if you have any concerns after the procedure please contact the Emergency Room in the Rotunda Hospital on 1800 522 687.

Limitations

HSGs only examine the uterus and fallopian tubes. Abnormalities of the ovaries, uterus wall and other pelvic structures may be evaluated with alternative procedures such as MRI, Ultrasound or Laparoscopy.

After the procedure

You may experience some cramping for a few hours post procedure. If this occurs, please take pain relief available to you at home (paracetamol, solpadiene etc.) if you are not allergic. If severe pain or high temperature occurs within 7 days please contact the Rotunda Emergency Room on 1800 522 687. You may experience some vaginal discharge over the following days, but avoid using tampons or other internal menstruation products for this. We advise that you refrain from sexual intercourse for 48 hours after the procedure.

Booking an Appointment

Please call or email the x-ray department on the first day of your period. If there is nobody available to take your call, please leave a voicemail with your name, phone number and date of birth.

X-RAY DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Phone: 01-817 1741

Monday-Tuesday: 9am-4pm

Wednesday-Friday: 9am-1pm

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