

Hysterosalpingogram

Please read this leaflet carefully

Hysterosalpingography

Introduction This leaflet is intended to provide answers to common questions that you may have about hysterosalpingography.

What is a hysterosalpingogram?

A hysterosalpingogram is an x-ray examination of the uterus and fallopian tubes performed using a special contrast medium (x-ray dye). The test can only be carried out at a specific point in your menstrual cycle, when there is no possibility you could be pregnant.

Why do I need a hysterosalpingogram? This procedure can be used to examine women who have infertility problems or a history of repeated miscarriages. It is able to show the shape and structure of the uterus, the patency (openness) of the fallopian tubes and any adhesions (scarring inside the body from previous surgery or infection). It can also be used to monitor the effects of tubal surgery – that is closure of the fallopian tubes in a

sterilisation procedure, or the re-opening of the fallopian tubes.

Who will be performing the hysterosalpingogram?

A Consultant Gynaecologist who is specially trained to carry out these procedures will be performing the examination. There will also be a radiographer and a nurse present to look after you and assist the radiologist throughout the procedure. Where will the procedure take place? Your procedure will be carried out in the X-ray department in a “screening room”, which is adapted for specialised procedures.

How do I prepare for a hysterosalpingogram?

A hysterosalpingogram procedure is best performed within 10 days of the start of menstruation, but before the start of ovulation to make certain that you are not pregnant during the examination. This also ensures less discomfort during the examination. You must contact the X-ray department on the day

your period starts and they will arrange an appointment for your examination.

Please refrain from intercourse, from the day your period starts, until after the test. The procedure cannot be performed if there is any chance that you could be pregnant, or while you are actively bleeding.

Your referring gynaecologist may prescribe antibiotics for you to take prior to the examination. If you are given antibiotics, you must start the antibiotics the day before the procedure and complete the course of tablets given to you.

At the time of your appointment you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. If you have any allergies or have previously reacted to contrast medium (the dye used for kidney x-rays and CT scanning) then you must let the x-ray department know before the procedure.

X-ray Dept. Calderdale Royal Hospital Telephone No: 01422 224141 X-ray Dept.

Pinderfields Hospital
Telephone No: 01924 512266

What actually happens during the procedure?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table, with your knees bent and apart, (similar to the position you are in if you have had a smear test).

A speculum is inserted into the vagina, and a catheter (thin plastic tube) or fine metal tube is then advanced into the cervix (neck of the womb). A small balloon is inflated at the end of the catheter to help keep it in place. The Gynaecologist then injects the contrast medium through the catheter and x-ray images are taken to show your uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes. When sufficient images have been taken the speculum and the catheter are removed.

You will then be shown to the changing facilities where you can wash (the contrast medium is a clear sticky liquid) and get changed.

Please be assured that your privacy and dignity will be respected and protected whilst you are in the department.

Will it hurt?

The procedure should cause only minimal discomfort. There may be some discomfort when the catheter is placed and the contrast medium injected, but it should not last long.

You can also experience some generalised lower abdominal pain (similar to normal period pain) but this should be minimal and not long lasting, and is usually relieved by simple analgesia such as Paracetamol.

How long will the procedure take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how straightforward or complex a procedure will be, but usually this

procedure takes approximately 20-30 minutes

What happens afterwards?

As soon as you feel well you can go home, this is usually straight away, however sometimes patients with discomfort prefer to wait a short while. It is normal to bleed a little after the procedure, and sometimes a period may follow.

You can resume sexual intercourse whenever you feel comfortable. The gynaecologist who carried out the procedure will analyse the images and compile a report with will be sent to the Consultant who referred you for your test

Should I bring someone with me? We advise that you bring someone with you to your appointment in case you are in some discomfort afterwards and do not wish to drive home. Due to the nature of the test it is not usually possible for anyone to accompany you into the examination room, however they may wait close by in our waiting room.

What are the risks and complications?

Hysterosalpingography is a minimally invasive and usually mildly uncomfortable examination with rare complications and risks.

Women who are or may be pregnant must inform the radiologist or radiographer before the procedure. This examination should not be performed in these circumstances.

You may have a reaction to the contrast medium that may need treatment by drugs but this is extremely rare.

You must also inform us if you have had any recent pelvic surgery. In the event of a chronic inflammatory condition, pelvic infection or untreated sexually transmitted disease be certain to inform your gynaecologist or the radiologist before the procedure to avoid risking the infection becoming worse.

If you have been prescribed antibiotics prior to this procedure you must ensure you start these the day before your procedure-again to avoid infection. You

would notice signs of infection after the procedure by a discharge, which may be stained and / or offensive smelling. If you notice this you should contact your GP or gynaecologist. If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact:

Further information may be obtained from our website visit:
www.yorkshirefertility.co.uk

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service, you have received please contact:

Clinical Lead Nurse

Yorkshire Fertility
Broad Street Plaza
51 Northbridge
Halifax
HX1 1UB
Telephone (01422) 261344

If you would like this information in another format or language contact us.

Czech

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Hungarian

Amennyiben ezt az információt más formátumban vagy nyelven szeretné megkapni, vegye fel a kapcsolatot fenti részlegünkkel.

Polish

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

Punjabi

ਚ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਡਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کرنی اور فارمیٹ طرز زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔