

Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

This leaflet is for women having a hysterosalpingogram (HSG), an X-ray examination of the uterus and fallopian tubes.

What is an HSG?

An HSG is an X-ray examination of the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes. Dye is injected through your cervix (neck of the womb) to show the cavity of your uterus and tubes. This test aims to show whether your tubes are open and if there are any abnormalities in the cavity of your womb.

The fluid contains iodine, so **if you are allergic to iodine we will not be able to carry out the test.**

There is a very small risk (less than 1% – 1 in every 100) of getting an infection following an HSG. One of the routine tests we ask you to have prior to your HSG is a vaginal swab to exclude chlamydia, this is usually performed during your initial appointment in Clinic. If this has not been performed, please contact the Fertility Clinic to arrange.

If you have any concerns following your test, please speak to your GP or contact the Fertility Clinic on 0118 322 7286.

How to book your appointment

- On the first day of your next period, ring the X-ray Department on **0118 322 7991** and ask for an HSG appointment. An HSG is usually done between days 7 and 10 of your menstrual cycle, i.e. after your period and before ovulation. Because of this it may not be possible for you to have your HSG the first month you ring in, the X-ray Department may ask you to call back in a subsequent cycle.
- **You must not be pregnant at the time of the HSG. No sexual intercourse from the first day of your period until after your HSG appointment, please.**
- If you are not having menstrual periods at the moment, please discuss with the X-ray Department prior to your appointment. If you are unsure, please either discuss with the Fertility Clinic or directly with the doctor performing the HSG.

What does it involve?

When you arrive at the X-ray Department a nurse or radiographer will ask you to change into a hospital gown. You will be taken into the x-ray room and lie on the x-ray couch. A radiologist will insert a speculum (an instrument to open your vagina, similar to having a smear test). A small catheter (tube) is then passed through your cervix. Dye is gently injected through the catheter and can be seen by the radiologist on the monitor screen.

An HSG can cause period-type pains for a few minutes during the procedure and sometimes for two or three hours afterwards, although many patients do not get pain at all. We advise you to take some painkillers (such as Ibuprofen or Paracetamol) up to one hour before your appointment just in case.

The procedure usually takes about 20 minutes. Afterwards, you can get changed before going home. **Someone should come to the hospital with you** for an HSG appointment in case you feel unwell, although they will not be able to accompany you during the examination.

What happens afterwards?

You may have a small amount of vaginal bleeding for two or three days after the HSG – use pads, not tampons, for this.

When can I try for a pregnancy?

You can continue to try and conceive as normal after your HSG. If you are taking Clomifene or Letrozole you can continue to take it during your HSG cycle. If you have any questions regarding your treatment and HSG please ring the Fertility Clinic on **0118 322 7286**.

When will I know the results?

The radiologist will prepare a report of your examination, which will be sent to the doctor who arranged this test. The final result will be sent to your consultant and will be available at your next Fertility Clinic appointment.

Once you have had your HSG, please phone the Fertility Clinic to arrange a follow up appointment to discuss your results and your future treatment plan. Tel: 0118 322 7286.

Further information

The clinic doctors produce a number of information sheets especially for this clinic and update them frequently. You can find some of these sheets on the Trust website leaflet catalogue <https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/leaflets-catalogue/> by typing in the leaflet name.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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