

Information for Patients

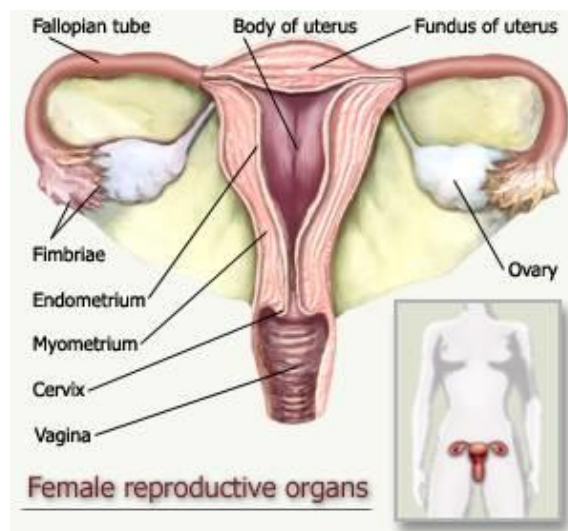
Hysterosalpingogram

Directorate of Clinical Radiology

What is a Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) and why do I need one?

A Hysterosalpingogram is a special x-ray to show whether your uterus (womb) is normal and your Fallopian tubes are open. This will help doctors to find the cause of your problems, for example, why you are not getting pregnant, and decide the most appropriate treatment for you.

It may also be used to check whether a sterilisation procedure has been successful.



Tests before your HSG

Infection

You have swab tests taken in the Gynae Clinic to check that you do not have a pelvic infection.

Pregnancy

You will have a pregnancy test when you arrive in the department before the HSG and you will need to bring an early morning specimen of your urine with you.

Note: the pregnancy test will not detect a very early pregnancy of less than seven days from conception.

How do I make an Appointment?

If you have regular periods:-

You will be contacted by our Booking Office and asked to telephone the on the 1st day of your period (or the following Monday if this falls at a weekend) on:-

01495 – 765100 – Select OPTION 4

An appointment will be made for you between day 6 and day 10 of your cycle.

If you have irregular periods or no periods:-

You will be asked to abstain from sexual intercourse or use contraception (the pill or condoms) for 6 weeks before the HSG. Contraception will be prescribed by your consultant and you will have a pre-booked appointment for the HSG at 6 weeks.

If you have a period before the 6 week appointment date:-

You should telephone the Booking Office on the first day of the period (or the following Monday if this falls at the weekend) and we may be able to offer you an earlier appointment between day 6 and day 10 of that cycle.

If this is not possible you must continue to abstain from sexual intercourse or continue to use contraception and keep your original 6 week appointment.

When may I not have a Hysterosalpingogram?

- If you think you may be pregnant
- If you are bleeding
- If you have a vaginal infection
- If you have recently had a D&C

How is it done?

The procedure will involve you lying on the x-ray table in a position similar to a cervical smear test. A speculum will be placed in the vagina and a small tube or catheter will be passed through the cervix (neck of the womb), and into the body of the uterus (womb). This will be used to inject a special contrast liquid or "dye" which shows up on x-ray. The procedure will take about 10 minutes.

Please bring a sanitary pad (not a tampon) with you as after the procedure you may have some spotting of blood and you will lose the "dye".

Will it hurt?

When the catheter is inserted you may feel some discomfort but this will wear off quite quickly. Not all patients feel this.

When the "dye" is injected you may feel a period type pain, but this usually fades as soon as the examination is finished.

We recommend that you take Paracetamol, Ibuprofen or whatever you normally take for period pain, two hours before the appointment.

What are the risks?

If you are pregnant

The procedure could cause a miscarriage and the x-rays could harm a developing baby.

Infection

You will be advised about this when you attend for your HSG. If we think you are particularly at risk of infection you will be prescribed antibiotics to be taken after the procedure.

Allergy

This is extremely rare but if you have any known allergies, please inform the doctor or radiographer before the procedure.

Fainting

Rarely

Will I be told the results of the HSG on the day?

After the HSG we may be able to tell you what the x-ray has shown but you will need to see your referring Consultant for a more detailed explanation.

We hope this information has been helpful and easy to understand.

If you have any questions or concerns please telephone the **Booking Office** on:-

01495 – 765100 - OPTION 4

- Or ask in the x-ray department at your appointment.

Write the day of the week and the date of the **FIRST** day of your period in the box below.

Day _____ Date ____/____/ ____

Please bring this leaflet with you to your appointment together with your early morning urine sample.

This leaflet has been produced by the Department of Radiology, Nevill Hall Hospital in consultation with the Radiology Departments of the Royal Gwent Hospital.

**This document is available in Welsh /
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**