

Information for patients having Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) Examination

Please read all of this leaflet carefully

What is a hysterosalpingogram?

A hysterosalpingogram is an internal examination to see the inside of the uterus (womb) and to see if the fallopian tubes are patent (open).

Why has my doctor sent me for a hysterosalpingogram?

Your hospital consultant may have sent you for a hysterosalpingogram for a number of reasons. You may have had difficulty conceiving or have had a number of miscarriages. This test is also performed to confirm that sterilisation has been successful.

What preparation will I need?

It is essential that you are not pregnant when this test is performed. For this reason we ask that you attend for your examination, no later than day 10 in your menstrual cycle. When you contact us to make your appointment we will ask you to **abstain from intercourse until the examination has been performed**. Please telephone for an appointment on **day 1 of your cycle (period)**:

**Heartlands or Solihull hospitals
Good Hope Hospital**

**0121 424 3264
0121 424 7154**

It is also important that your menstrual bleeding has stopped. If you are still bleeding, we will be unable to perform the examination. When you arrive in the Radiology Department, **you will be asked to provide a urine sample**, so that we can carry out a pregnancy test. The examination may give you some discomfort, like period pains. You may like to take two paracetamol tablets just before your examination to help with this.

What does a Hysterosalpingogram involve?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove your underwear. You will be given two hospital gowns to maintain your dignity, or you may bring your own dressing gown from home if you prefer. You will then be brought into the x-ray room and the procedure will be explained to you.

Prior to the procedure, we will check your swab and pregnancy test results, ask you a few relevant questions, and complete a consent form for you to sign, providing we are able to proceed with the investigation. You will also be given the opportunity to ask any questions that may concern you about the hysterosalpingogram. You will then be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table and bring your legs up into a 'frog' position.

The radiologist or advanced practitioner radiographer will place a speculum in the vagina so that the cervix can be seen. A soft, thin catheter is then placed through the cervical opening into the uterine cavity. A clear, sticky x-ray dye is then slowly injected through the catheter into the uterine

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cavity. X-ray pictures are taken as the uterine cavity is filling and as the fallopian tubes fill and begin to spill into the abdominal cavity. Once this occurs the examination is complete and the instruments are removed from the cervix and vagina.

Who will be in the room?

There will be a radiologist or advanced practitioner radiographer in the room who will perform the examination. They will be assisted by a radiographer and a radiology assistant, who will help to make sure you are comfortable. There may also be a student in the room, observing the imaging procedure. However, if you are not happy to have a student present, you do not have to agree. If you would prefer this examination to be performed by a female radiologist or radiographer, please let us know.

What will the examination feel like?

When the soft, thin catheter is placed in the cervix it may feel a little uncomfortable. It should not be painful, so you should let us know if it is. When the x-ray dye is injected into the uterine cavity, you may experience some discomfort. This may feel like period pains and should only last for a few minutes.

How long will the examination take?

The examination will take about 20 minutes.

Will I notice anything different after the test?

After the test, there is likely to be some vaginal stickiness or discharge from the x-ray dye. It is also normal to bleed a little. The bleeding should not last for more than 24 hours, and should not be any heavier than a normal period. If you are concerned, you should see your GP as soon as possible or come to the Emergency Department at the hospital.

The examination is a sterile procedure; however, there is a very small chance that you may get an infection. If you notice any abnormal discharge, develop a high temperature or experience any abdominal pain after the examination, you should see your GP as soon as possible or come to the Emergency Department at the hospital, explaining that you have recently had this procedure. You may need treatment with antibiotics if an infection is suspected.

When will I get my results?

The results will be returned to your hospital consultant. You will be contacted by them with a clinic appointment.

Where can I find more information?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the following numbers:

Heartlands Hospital	0121 424 3264
Solihull Hospital	0121 424 5271
Good Hope Hospital	0121 424 7154

The following website may also be helpful:

The Royal College of Radiologists: <http://www.rcr.ac.uk>.

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.