

Hysterosalpingogram - A Patients Guide

What is a Hysterosalpingogram?

It is an X-ray investigation to examine your uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes, using a contrast (dye) that is introduced through the vagina.

Will I need any particular preparation for this examination?

The examination must take place between the 10th and 14th day of your menstrual cycle. It is very important that you are not pregnant when this investigation is performed, as this could be harmful to the developing baby.

Therefore from the day you book your test, we advise you use some form of contraception until the test has been performed.

If you take Metformin (Glucophage), do not take any on the day of the examination or for 48 hours after.

We advise that you bring a sanitary towel with you. If this is not possible we will provide one for you.

What will happen when I arrive in the X-Ray Department?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and shown to the X-ray room.

How long will the test take?

Approximately 20 minutes.

What happens during the examination?

The examination will be performed by a Radiologist, with the help of a Radiographer and nurse. When you are lying on the X-ray couch, a speculum (an instrument that will give the doctor a good view of the cervix – as used in a smear procedure) will be inserted into the vagina. It is followed by cleaning and the insertion of a small catheter into the cervix. The contrast (dye) is then introduced through the catheter into the uterus.

X-rays are taken and after they have been checked, the catheter and speculum are removed. Some women experience period-like pain when the contrast is injected.

What will happen after the investigation?

Some of the contrast (dye) may leak from the vagina and occasionally there will be a spotting of blood.

You are advised to spend the remainder of the day resting at home and should not return to work until the following day. Paracetamol or Ibuprofen can be taken if you experience abdominal pain afterwards.

Going home

You can use your usual form of transport.

Can we try for a baby straight after the test?

NO, you should wait until your next period.

Are there any side / after effects?

There is a small risk of infection following the procedure. You should look for vaginal discharge, abdominal discomfort and a raised temperature. You may also experience a small amount of spotting. Very rarely people are allergic to the dye used.

How will I get my results?

The results will be sent to the doctor who sent you for this examination and you can discuss the report with them when you next visit.