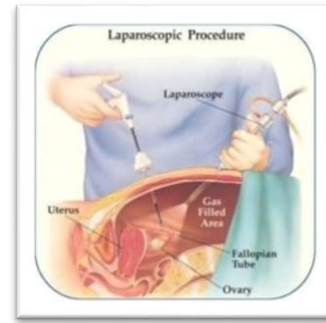


# **Fertility Investigations:** **Laparoscopy and Dye Test**



## **What is a Laparoscopy and dye test?**

As part of your ongoing fertility treatment you may need a laparoscopy and dye test. A laparoscopy is an examination of your ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus (womb), using a laparoscope (a small telescope). At the same time a dye will be injected to assess whether your fallopian tubes are blocked or not. This will provide us with information about possible further treatment. This procedure is normally carried out as a day case at either Peterborough City or Hinchingsbrook Hospital. You will receive confirmation of your procedure date in the post, along with details about your pre-operative assessment.

## **What Happens before the procedure?**

Please follow fasting protocol as directed at your pre-operative assessment, prior to arriving at the hospital. You will be seen by both the surgeon and the anaesthetist (or a member of their team) to ensure that you remain fit for surgery. You may take this time to further ask any questions or queries you may have. At any point prior to the procedure you may decide not to go ahead with operation.

## **What happens during the procedure?**

You will be given a general anaesthetic. A small cut is made through your belly button. The laparoscope is then passed through the incision and the abdominal cavity is filled with gas to improve the view of your reproductive organs. The surgeon will examine your ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus (womb). It may also be necessary to make one or two more small cuts if further instruments are needed. At the same time a blue dye is injected through the cervix (neck of the womb) into the uterus and into the fallopian tubes. This will allow the surgeon to see whether the fallopian tubes are blocked.

## **What happens after the procedure?**

The procedure is very quick and you will be back on the ward/day surgery unit as soon as you have recovered from the anaesthetic. You will be given pain relief during the procedure, and again when you wake up, should you need any. Following the operation, many women experience lower abdominal discomfort, similar to period pain. You may also experience pain in your abdomen, chest

Reference: FPH291

Department : Family and Public health

Author: Wendy Eustace Emma Worricker

Review date Oct 2023

and shoulder due to the dispersal of the gas that was used during the procedure. Pain relief such as paracetamol or ibuprofen should be enough to relieve this, and it is important that although you should rest, you should also move around as normally as possible to help the gas leave the body.

### **What are the risks of the procedure?**

Common complications that can occur include:

- Post-operative wound infection
- Minor bleeding/bruising from the site of the cut on your stomach
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Urinary problems

Serious complications after laparoscopy are rare, around 2 out of every 100 cases. These include:

- Failed entry to abdomen.
- Damage to an organ, such as uterine perforation, injury to bladder or bowel, Injury to ureter, damage to ovaries from the laparoscope, impacting ovarian reserve
- Damage to major artery (blood vessel) requiring transfusion
- Damage to the nerves in your pelvis
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Complications surrounding the use of carbon dioxide gas during the procedure, such as gas bubbles entering a vein or artery.
- A serious allergic reaction to the anesthetic
- Risk of death
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Further surgery is usually required to treat any major complications

### **What will I know the results?**

Your surgeon should write to let you know the results, although they may speak to you directly post operation. You will be invited back to the fertility clinic to discuss any findings, as well as to make a plan moving forward with any treatment.

**After reading this information thoroughly, if you have any questions regarding the procedure, please contact the fertility team on (01733 673750) or discuss with a practitioner at your preoperative assessment**