

Going for a Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)



Fluoroscopy Diagnostic Imaging Dept.

This leaflet gives you information about having a **hysterosalpingogram (HSG)**. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is important that you understand the procedure so that you can consent to the examination.

What is an HSG?

An HSG is a diagnostic investigation of the womb and fallopian tubes using X-rays. It is performed by a Radiologist (a doctor specialising in X-ray examinations). The method is very similar to a smear test. The Radiologist will inject a small amount of fluid, a contrast medium, into the womb and fallopian tubes to help give a clearer picture when using X-rays. Several X-rays will be taken once the contrast has been administered. These will be checked and then the examination is complete.

What do I need to do before the examination?

It is **very important** that this procedure is carried out between **10 and 22 days after the first day of your period**. To book the appointment, please contact the X-ray department (01733 678384) on the first weekday following the start of your period. We will try to book an appointment during this cycle; however, this is not always possible.

You must abstain from sexual intercourse from the start of your period until the examination.

What do I need to do for the examination?

You will be taken to a changing room where you will be required to remove your clothes and jewellery and given an X-ray gown to wear. The Radiologist will care for you during the procedure and will be assisted by a Radiographer and a Nurse.

What happens after the examination?

You will be taken to the toilet. As soon as you are comfortable, you are free to leave the department. It is **vital** that you **do not** become pregnant during the month of the examination. You should, therefore, use a reliable contraceptive until your next period following the examination. It is important to follow these instructions, even if you think that you are unable to become pregnant.

How long will it take?

The procedure should take about 45 minutes from starting the procedure to leaving the department.

Are there any risks?

As with any X-ray procedure, there are risks associated with being exposed to radiation. These risks are very small and as with all x-ray procedures, the benefit of diagnosing a serious problem far outweighs the risks associated with being irradiated. The amount of X-rays used are kept to a minimum, however, the amount of radiation received is about the same as the amount everyone receives from the environment in about four months.

Are there any after-effects?

The procedure may cause some discomfort (like period pains), so it is a good idea to take your usual painkiller about 20 minutes before the start of the examination. You may experience some light bleeding after the examination and for the next few days. If you experience severe pain after the examination, contact your General Practitioner (GP).

When will I get the results?

After the examination, the Radiologist will give you a provisional result. The images obtained during this examination will be taken away and studied in greater detail and a report will be sent back to the doctor that referred you for the exam.

If you have any condition that may require extra consideration, please contact us (using the telephone number on your appointment letter) before your appointment to help us support you in your care and treatment.