

Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

What is an HSG?

An HSG is an X-ray examination of the womb and tubes. Dye is injected through your cervix (neck of the womb) to show the cavity of your uterus and tubes. This test aims to show whether your tubes are open and if there are any abnormalities in the cavity of your womb. There is a very small risk (<1%) of getting an infection following an HSG. One of the routine tests we ask you to have prior to your HSG is a vaginal swab to exclude chlamydia. If you have any concerns following your test please speak to your GP or contact the Fertility Clinic.

How to book your appointment:

- On the first day of your next period ring the X-ray Department **on 0118 322 7991** and ask for an HSG appointment. An HSG is normally done between days 7 and 10 of your cycle i.e. after your period and before ovulation. Because of this it may not be possible for you to have your HSG the first month you ring in, the X-ray Department may ask you to call back in a subsequent cycle
- You mustn't be pregnant at the time of the HSG. This is why the HSG has to be done by day 10 of your cycle.
- Please abstain from sexual intercourse from the first day of your period to date of your HSG appointment.
- If you are not having periods at the moment please discuss with the X-ray Department to arrange a pregnancy test prior to your appointment. If you are unsure please either discuss with the Fertility Clinic or directly with the doctor performing the HSG.

What does it involve?

When you arrive at the X-ray Department a nurse or radiographer will ask you to change into a hospital gown. Bring a dressing gown with you to cover the hospital gown. You will be taken into a separate room to lie on a couch. A radiologist will insert a speculum (an instrument to open your vagina similar to having a smear test). A small catheter (tube) is then passed through your cervix. Dye is gently injected through the catheter and can be seen by you and the radiologist on the monitor screen.

An HSG can cause period-type pains for a few minutes during the procedure and sometimes for two or three hours afterwards, although many patients do not get a pain at all. We advise you to take some painkillers (Ibuprofen or Paracetamol) up to one hour before your appointment just in case.

The procedure usually takes about 10 minutes. Afterwards, you get changed and should sit for a while before going home. Someone should come with you to an HSG appointment in case you feel unwell.

What happens afterwards?

You may have a small amount of vaginal bleeding for two or three days after the HSG - use pads, not tampons, for this.

When can I try for a pregnancy?

You can continue to try and conceive as normal after your HSG. If you are taking Clomifene you can continue to take it during your HSG cycle. If you have any questions regarding your treatment and HSG please ring the Fertility Clinic.

0118 322 8785

When will I know the results?

The radiologist may be able to explain the results to you at the time. The final result will be sent to your consultant and will be available at your next Fertility Clinic appointment.

Once you have had your HSG, please phone the Fertility Clinic to arrange a follow up appointment to discuss your results and your future treatment plan.

0118 322 8785

The clinic doctors produce a number of information sheets especially for this clinic and update them frequently. You can find some of these sheets on www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets/ and search under 'F' for Fertility Clinic.

For more information about the Trust visit our website: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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