

Procedure Information: Hysterosalpingogram

What is a Hysterosalpingogram?

A Hysterosalpingogram is a radiologic exam in which a woman's uterus and fallopian tubes are filled with a water-soluble contrast material (x-ray dye) in order to view and assess the shape and structure of the uterus, the openness of the fallopian tubes and any scarring within the uterine cavity.

When is a Hysterosalpingogram ordered?

A Hysterosalpingogram is primarily used to examine women who have difficulty becoming pregnant. This exam is also used for abnormalities of the uterus:

- Tumor masses
- Adhesions
- Uterine fibroids
- Evaluate the openness of the fallopian tubes

Patient Preparation

The Hysterosalpingogram is to be scheduled 10-14 days after onset of menstruation. There is no preparation for this exam. Report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.

What happens during a Hysterosalpingogram procedure?

You will be taken to a private changing room, asked to remove your clothing from the waist down and put on a hospital gown. A radiographer will take you to an exam room, verify your identity (name and birth date) and obtain medical history for the radiologist. After signing consent for the examination, you will be positioned on the examination table on your back with your knees bent like a gynecological exam. A speculum is inserted into the vagina. The cervix is then cleaned and a catheter is inserted into the cervix. The contrast material then begins to fill the uterine cavity, fallopian tubes and peritoneal cavity through the catheter and fluoroscopic images are taken.

Length of procedure

The exam usually takes about 30 minutes.

What will I experience after the procedure?

There may be slight abdominal discomfort and cramping when the catheter is placed in the cervix and as the contrast material is injected, but it should not last

long. Most women experience vaginal spotting for a few days after the examination, which is normal.

What are the risks vs. benefits of the exam?

A Hysterosalpingogram is a minimally invasive procedure with a small risk of infection. A benefit of the exam is that a Hysterosalpingogram can open fallopian tubes that are blocked allowing patients to become pregnant after the exam.

Consult your doctor if you have concerns following the exam.