

Radiology - Fluoroscopy Department

Hysterosalpinogram Information Leaflet

Introduction

You have been advised by your doctor to have a Hysterosalpinogram. This information leaflet will give you general information about having this procedure, what is involved and what are the possible risks. This leaflet should answer most of your questions when your doctor has referred you to the Radiology department. It should not replace the discussion between you and the healthcare team, but may act as a starting point for discussion. If you have concerns or need more information, please discuss this with a member of the healthcare team.

Please read this leaflet carefully to make sure you successfully prepare for the examination.

- Please contact the X-ray Department if your weight is equal to or more than 138kg (21½stone) – You may need an alternative examination.
- You have allergies to contrast (x-ray dye)
- You are, or might be, pregnant

Points to Remember

- Please call the X-ray Department, **Tel: 024 7696 7161** on the first day of your next menstrual cycle to arrange an appointment for this examination. The first day you menstruate (bleed) is the first day of your menstrual cycle.
- Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you to your appointment.



Patient Information

- If you are on medication from your GP please continue to take it as normal.
- We also ask you to leave any valuable possessions at home.

What is a Hysterosalpinogram?

A hysterosalpinogram is an examination of the uterus and fallopian tubes, performed under x-ray guidance. The procedure will seem very similar to a smear test. The examination will be carried out by a Radiologist (X-ray doctor), who will be assisted by a radiographer and possibly a radiology nurse or a radiology department assistant. The procedure may take 15 to 30 minutes.

Preparation

Please bring all your usual medication into hospital with you. Please remember to take any sprays or inhalers with you when you have the procedure. It is important that you understand the test and its implications, so if you have any questions, please ask the doctor. You will be asked to confirm your consent to show that you understand the procedure and are aware of the risks and benefits it involves. We will want you to be as relaxed as possible for the procedure.

Please tell the doctor if:

- You have had any allergies or bad reactions to medicines or other tests
- You have asthma, hay fever, diabetes, any heart or kidney problems.

Please continue to eat and drink normally. You may be asked to change into one of our hospital gowns. You are more than welcome to bring your own dressing gown from home if you prefer to keep yourself comfortable and warm whilst you are with us.

Your appointment date should be during the time period from when you have finished menstruating (bleeding) until the 10th day of your menstrual cycle (first day of menstruation is counted as “Day 1” of your menstrual cycle).

You should take precautions to make sure that there is no possibility of you being pregnant at the time of the examination.

Risks of the procedure

As with any procedure or operation, side-effects are possible. We have included the most common risks and complications in this leaflet. The probability of the complications occurring will vary for each patient and the possibility of these complications happening to you will be discussed with you before you consent to the procedure.

- Rarely, the contrast medium used can cause allergic reactions which can require treatment. You will be asked about allergies by the Radiologist at the time.
- X-rays are a type of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives; this comes from the sun, food we eat, and the ground. Exposure to X-rays carries a small risk, but your doctor feels that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of having the test.

Safety

The contrast agent contains iodine. Please inform the radiologist or radiographer:

- If you are allergic to iodine, have any other allergies or suffer from asthma.
- If you have reacted previously to the injection used for kidney X-rays and CT scanning.

Female patients aged 12 – 55 years: The risks of radiation are higher for the unborn child so you will be asked to confirm that you are not pregnant before the examination can proceed (see 'Preparation').

What will happen when I arrive?

- On arrival at the hospital you will be asked to report to the Fluoroscopy and Interventional reception desk, following Route 2, to be checked in for your appointment.
- You will be asked to change into an examination gown ready for your procedure. Please feel free to bring your own dressing gown to wear over the X-ray gown.

Patient Information

During your examination

The procedure will again be explained to you by the Radiologist and you will be able to ask any further questions that you may have. You will be asked to confirm the 1st day of your current menstrual cycle and to confirm that you are not pregnant.

Once you have understood the explanation and agreed to continue with the examination you will be asked to lie down on an X-ray table with your legs in the same position as for a smear test. In a similar way to the smear test, an instrument (speculum) to help visualisation will be inserted. A small tube (catheter) will then be passed through the vagina into your uterus.

A small amount of colourless liquid (contrast medium) will be injected through the catheter to allow the radiologist to visualise your uterus and fallopian tubes. X-ray images will be taken throughout the procedure.

After your examination

You may wish to bring a sanitary towel for use immediately after the examination as you may experience some discomfort and slight bleeding ('spotting').

You will be offered a cup of tea or coffee and you may get dressed and go home.

It is recommended that you continue to take precautions against getting pregnant until your next menstrual cycle begins.

If you have any problems after the examination please see your GP.

How do I get the results?

The results may not be given to you immediately, in which case they will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination.

Other Sources of Information:

For information about the effects of X-rays and information about radiology departments visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/x-ray/>

Please note that the views expressed in these websites do not necessarily reflect the views of UHCW NHS Trust.

Do you need an interpreter?

If you need an interpreter, we will provide one of our hospital-based interpreters. You cannot use a friend or relative to interpret for you. We provide an interpreter as you are having a complex procedure and we want you to be supported by someone familiar with explaining your procedure. A friend or relative is still very welcome to come with you to the hospital.

It is important that you contact Radiology at least 48 hours before your procedure to let us know that you need an interpreter. Please call Radiology on the telephone number 024 7696 6933 and we will arrange an interpreter for you.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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