

Information for patients having Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) Examination

Please read all of this leaflet carefully

What is a Hysterosalpingogram

A Hysterosalpingogram is an internal examination to demonstrate the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes.

Why has my Doctor sent me for a Hysterosalpingogram?

Your hospital consultant may have sent you for a Hysterosalpingogram for a number of reasons. You may have had difficulty conceiving or have had a number of miscarriages. This test is also performed to confirm that sterilisation has been successful.

What preparation will I need?

It is essential that you are not pregnant when this test is performed. For this reason we ask that you attend for your examination, no later than day 10 in your menstrual cycle. When you contact us to make your appointment we will ask you to **abstain from intercourse until the examination has been performed**. Please telephone for an appointment on **day 1 of your cycle (period)**:

Heartlands or Solihull 0121 424 2451
Good Hope 0121 424 7154

on the first day of your period so that we can arrange this.

It is also important that your menstrual bleeding has stopped. If you are still bleeding, we will be unable to perform the examination. When you arrive in the radiology Department, you may be asked to provide a urine sample, so that we can carry out a pregnancy test. The examination may give you some discomfort like period pains. You may like to take two paracetamol tablets just before your examination to help with this.

What does a Hysterosalpingogram involve?

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove your underwear. You will be given a dressing gown, or you may bring your own from home if you prefer. You will then be brought into the x-ray room and the procedure will be

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explained to you. You will then be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table and bring your legs up into a 'frog' position.

The Radiologist or Advanced Practitioner Radiographer will place a speculum in the vagina so that the cervix can be seen. A soft, thin catheter is then placed through the cervical opening into the uterine cavity. A clear, sticky x-ray dye is then slowly injected through the catheter into the uterine cavity. X-ray pictures are taken as the uterine cavity is filling and as the fallopian tubes fill and begin to spill into the abdominal cavity. Once this occurs the examination is complete and the instruments are removed from the cervix and vagina.

Who will be in the room?

There will be a Radiologist or Advanced Practitioner Radiographer in the room who will perform the examination. They will be assisted by a Radiographer and a Radiology Assistant, who will help to make sure you are comfortable. There may also be a student in the room, observing the procedure. However, if you are not happy to have a student present, you do not have to agree. If you would prefer this examination to be performed by a female Radiologist or Radiographer, please let us know.

What will the examination feel like?

When the soft, thin catheter is placed in the cervix it may feel a little uncomfortable. It should not be painful, so you should let us know if it is. When the x-ray dye is injected into the uterine cavity, you may experience some discomfort. This may feel like period pains and should only last for a few minutes.

How long will the examination take?

The examination will take about 20minutes.

Will I notice anything different after the test?

After the test you will notice that you are a little sticky from the x-ray dye. It is also normal to bleed a little. The bleeding should not last for more than 24 hours, and should not be any heavier than a normal period. If you are concerned you should see your GP as soon as possible or come to the AE department at the hospital.

The examination is a sterile procedure; however, there is a very small chance that you may get an infection. If you notice any abnormal discharge or any abdominal pain after the examination, you should see your GP as soon as possible or come to the AE department at the hospital.

When will I get my results?

The results will be returned to your hospital consultant. You will be contacted by

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them with a clinic appointment.

Where can I find more information?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the following numbers:

Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	0121 424 2451
Solihull Hospital	0121 424 5271
Good Hope Hospital	0121 424 7154

The following web site may also be helpful:-

The Royal College of Radiologists: <http://www.rcr.ac.uk>.

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will always ask you for your consent if we need to use information that identifies you. We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Additional Sources of Information:

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

- Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
- Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946 or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:-

- NHS Choice:- www.nhs.uk
- Patient Opinion:- www.patientopinion.org.uk
- I want great care:- www.iwantgreatcare.org (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)
- Radiology Website:- <http://www.heft-radiology.co.uk/Default.asp?page=443>

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Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about this hospital or how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the NHS Choice or Patient Opinion sites.

If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or treatment, or anything you do not understand or wish to know more about, write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.