

Community Reproductive Endocrinology

Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

What is the HSG procedure?

The HSG procedure is essentially an x-ray of the uterus at the same time that dye is being infused into the uterine cavity. The infusion of dye pushes the walls of the uterus apart and provides contrast to the uterus when the x-ray picture is taken.

When is the HSG procedure recommended?

- Evaluation of abnormal uterine bleeding
- Follow-up of abnormal Saline Infused Sonography (SIS)
- Suspected uterine fibroids
- Suspected intrauterine adhesions or scar tissue
- Suspected endometrial polyps
- Prior to in vitro fertilization
- Suspected blockage of the fallopian tubes

What can this test determine?

- If the fallopian tubes are open
- Uterine polyps
- Uterine fibroids
- Uterine scar tissue
- Normal uterine cavity

What can't the test determine?

- Endometriosis
- Cancer

How accurate is this test?

HSG has been shown to be very accurate in determining when an abnormality is present, as well as showing that the uterine cavity is normal. As with almost all testing, the results from a HSG are not perfect. About 5% of the time an abnormality may be missed. It is also possible that an abnormality will be suspected based upon the HSG results, when in fact, the uterus is completely normal.

Remember that your physician will be using other information in addition to the HSG results to make recommendations on treatment

What are the risks associated with having a HSG?

- Infection of the pelvic organs (tubes, uterus and/or ovaries) is a rare, but theoretically possible risk of an HSG occurring in about 1% (1 in 100) of cases. If a pelvic infection was to occur, most cases respond to oral or intravenous antibiotics. Whenever an infection of the fallopian tubes occurs, there can be a decrease or complete loss of fertility.
- Uterine puncture is theoretically possible anytime something is placed into the uterus. With the flexible catheters used during a HSG, this complication is very unlikely.

Hysterosalpingogram (cont.)

When and how do I schedule my HSG procedure?

- You should schedule your HSG between days 6-12 of your menstrual cycle. The nursing staff will assist you with scheduling the procedure at the appropriate time.
- The test will most likely be performed in the outpatient radiology department at Community Health Network.

What should I do before the procedure?

- Take 800mg Ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®, Nuprin) about 1 hour before scheduled HSG appointment. If you are allergic to or otherwise unable to take these medications, please let us know so that we can recommend an alternative medication.
- If you are taking Glucophage® (Metformin), discontinue 1 day prior to HSG and do not take until 48 hours after procedure.

How is the test performed?

- A speculum will be placed in the vagina (as it is done for a pap smear).
- After the cervix is cleaned with an antiseptic (please notify us if you are allergic to Betadine or iodine), a soft catheter will be inserted past the cervix into your uterus.
- Radiologic contrast dye will be slowly instilled into your uterus.
- As the dye separates the walls of your uterus, a radiologist will be taking x-ray pictures which will allow your physician to determine if any abnormalities are present in the uterus or fallopian tubes.
- After reviewing the uterus, the soft catheter will be removed.
- The procedure generally takes 10-15 minutes.

Are there any limits on my activity after the HSG procedure?

- Most women feel perfectly fine while some may experience minor uterine cramping.
- Very rarely, some women are unable to return to work immediately following a HSG.
- You should be able to drive yourself home.

When should I call?

- Temperature of 100.4°F or greater
- Worsening abdominal or pelvic pain
- Heavy vaginal bleeding

If you have an emergency, please call 911 or seek immediate medical attention at an emergency center.

If you have questions or concerns we can be reached as follows:

Monday through Friday 8AM to 4PM call **317-621-0600** to speak with a nurse in our office. Weekdays 4PM until 9PM and 8AM to 9PM on weekends, please page a nurse at **317-904-1641**. If you are unable to reach a nurse or it is after 9PM, please page the physician at **317-904-1682**.