

## Hysterosalpingography

Hysterosalpingography (HSG) also known as utero-salpingography, is a method for testing the tubal patency. The method constitutes a type of X-ray that looks at a woman's uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes. This type of X-ray uses a contrast material so that the uterus and fallopian tubes show up clearly on the X-ray images. The type of X-ray used is called a fluoroscopy, which creates a video image rather than a still picture. It is advisable to perform this method, from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of your menstrual cycle. However, it is not recommended to be performed during your period since it has to be excluded a case of a pregnancy.

### How this examination is performed?

The doctor may inject a local anesthetic into the cervix to reduce discomfort. The injection may feel like a pinch. Next, an instrument called a cannula will be inserted into the cervix and the speculum will be removed. Then the doctor will insert dye through the cannula, which will flow into your uterus and fallopian tubes (reproductive structures that transport ovum from the ovaries to the uterus). You'll then be placed under the X-ray machine, and the doctor will begin taking X-rays. You may be asked to change positions several times, in order for different angles to be captured. You may feel some pain and cramping as the dye moves through your fallopian tubes. When the X-rays have been taken, cannula will be removed. By this way it shows whether the fallopian tubes are passive or have any serious disorder. It also shows the shape of the uterine cavity and the existence of any abnormalities within the uterus such as septum, polyps, fibroids, adhesions. The duration of the test lasts about 10-15 minutes.

### Preparation for the examination

It is necessary to be administered, for preventative reasons antibiotics (tab. Vibramycin 100mg). Take a pill in the morning, a few hours before the examination gets started and continue with one each 12 hours until you finish the whole box. Also, 30 minutes before the examination, you will be administered a tab of Buscopan Plus 1-2 pills according to doctor's instructions, which are spasmolytic and aim to avoid any malfunctions that can be occurred during the examination. Metal can interfere with the X-ray machine. You'll be asked to remove any metal on your body, such as jewelry, before the procedure.

## Why to proceed into this examination?

Hysterosalpingography can help diagnose the cause of infertility, such as:

- structural abnormalities in the uterus, which may be congenital (genetic) or acquired
- blockage of the fallopian tubes
- scar tissue in the uterus
- uterine fibroids
- uterine tumors or polyps

## Contradictions

*This diagnostic method must be avoided when:*

- *menstruation is occurred*
- *during pregnancy*

## Abnormal side effects

- *fever*
- *severe pain and cramping*
- *foul-smelling vaginal discharge*
- *fainting*
- *heavy vaginal bleeding*
- *vomiting*