



Information for patients
and carers

Hysterosalpingogram

(HSG)

What is a hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

This is an X-ray examination of your fallopian tubes. A contrast agent (an X-ray dye) will be introduced into the fallopian tubes via a small catheter inserted into the cervix (neck of the womb) whilst X-rays are taken. The contrast agent outlines the womb and fallopian tubes on the X-ray images. A very small number of patients have an allergic reaction to the X-ray contrast agent. Before your examination the Radiographer will ask you a series of questions about your medical history, including any allergies you may have. This will help us assess if you are at risk of an allergic reaction.

This examination is carried out by a specially trained Consultant Radiographer or a Radiologist. Another Radiographer and an assistant will also be present in the examination room to guide you through the examination.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you weigh over 28 stone.
- If you feel you may need further assistance with transferring (including the use of a hoist).
- If you require an interpreter – please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter and we will arrange an official interpreter for you.

Are there any special preparations required before the examination?

For this examination you will be asked to ring us on the first day of your period. We will then give you an appointment which is within the next 10 days. It is imperative that you abstain from sexual intercourse from the first day of your period until after the examination.

Can I bring a relative or friend with me?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that we do not have child care facilities; if you need to bring your children with you please bring along an adult who can supervise them while your examination is being done.

What happens when I arrive at the X-ray department?

When you arrive at the X-ray department please book-in at the reception desk where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area. You will then be shown through to the examination room where the Radiographer will check some details with you and complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast agent. The Radiographer will explain the examination and answer any questions you may have. Before starting the examination the Radiographer will ask you to put on a hospital gown in the changing area which is connected to the examination room. You will also be asked to empty your bladder immediately before the examination.

What happens during the examination?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the X-ray table and the Consultant Radiographer will move you into an appropriate position for the examination to start. To begin they will clean the area around your vagina with some sterile liquid. They will then introduce a speculum into your vagina so your cervix can be clearly seen. A very fine tube will be inserted through your cervix and a small balloon on the end of the tube will be inflated to secure it in position. The contrast agent will then be introduced through this tube into the womb and fallopian tubes. Once the Consultant Radiographer has got the appropriate X-rays the fine tube will be removed.



What happens after the examination?

After the examination the Consultant Radiographer will review the images to ensure the necessary X-rays have been taken. You will then be able to get dressed again and leave the X-ray department.

Are there any side effects?

You may experience some mild discomfort during, and for a short while after, this procedure. The discomfort will be similar to period pain and you may wish to take your preferred pain relief to ease this.

Are there any risks?

There are some small risks involved with X-rays but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required. We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations, to provide as much information as we can about your condition. This allows the Clinicians to make an accurate diagnosis, therefore the benefits of having the examination far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

When will I receive the examination results?

The images will be reported by the Consultant Radiographer or Radiologist who performs your HSG, after your visit. How you get your results depends on which Clinician referred you for your HSG examination. You will be advised when you attend about how to receive this information.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Royal Preston Hospital X-ray Department on **01772 522096**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site

On 31 May 2017 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals became a smoke-free organisation. From that date smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Cantonese:

如果你希望以另外一種格式接收該資訊，請和我們聯絡，不必猶豫。

Gujarati:

જો તમને આ માહિતી બીજી રચના કે ફોર્મેટમાં મેળવવાની ઈચ્છા હોય, તો કૃપા કરી અમારો સંપર્ક કરતા અચકાશો નહિ.

Hungarian:

Kérjük, vegye fel velünk a kapcsolatot, ha más formában kéri ezt az információt.

Polish:

Jeżeli chciał(a)by Pan/Pani otrzymać niniejsze informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt.

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਝਿਜਕੋ।

Urdu:

اگر آپ اس معلومات کو کسی اور صورت میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کرنے میں ہچکچاہٹ محسوس نہ کریں۔

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Division: Diagnostics and clinical support

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