

Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

What You Need to Know and Do

Hysterosalpingogram (HSG) is an X-ray exam of your reproductive organs. X-ray dye (contrast medium) is used to make your organs show up more clearly on the X-ray.

This test is used to diagnose problems such as:

- blockages or narrowing of the fallopian tubes
- scarring of the fallopian tubes and uterus
- abnormal shape and size of the fallopian tubes and uterus
- tumors.

What should I do before my appointment?

The procedure should be scheduled shortly after the end of your menstrual period.

You may be asked to avoid:

- sexual intercourse
- using creams or other vaginal medicine
- douching.

You should tell your doctor or technologist if you have :

- a chronic pelvic or vaginal infection
- untreated sexually transmitted disease
- active inflammatory condition.

Ask us how you should prepare for the test.

When should I arrive for my appointment?

You will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment time to check in and complete paperwork.

What happens during my procedure?

You will change into a hospital gown. You will lie face up on an X-ray table with your knees bent (much like a Pap test).

An instrument called a speculum is inserted into your vagina to hold it open.

A thin tube (catheter) is guided through the cervix and into the uterus. In some cases, the cervix is dilated (made wider).

The dye is put into the catheter. The dye may stretch the uterus and fallopian tubes, causing some cramping and pain.

As the dye flows through the uterus and fallopian tubes, X-rays are taken. You may be asked to change positions.

The test usually takes 30 minutes.

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What happens after my procedure?

You may feel light-headed or dizzy. You can rest on the exam table until you're ready to get dressed.

You will likely have a thick discharge as the dye drains out of the uterus. You should use pads, not tampons, until the discharge is gone.

You may feel some cramping for a few hours after the test. This can usually be relieved with over-the-counter pain medicine.

You may be told to avoid sexual intercourse and douche for a day or 2.

How do I know if I am having problems?

You should call your doctor right away if you have:

- severe or increasing pelvic pain
- heavy vaginal bleeding (more than a pad an hour for 2 hours)
- vomiting
- fever (1° F above your normal temperature) lasting 24 to 48 hours
- foul-smelling or unusual vaginal discharge.