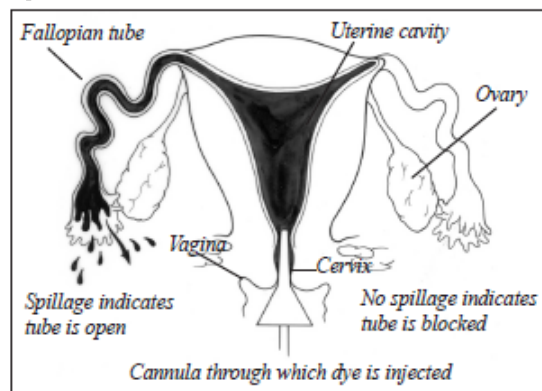


Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

A hysterosalpingogram or HSG is an x-ray to determine if your fallopian tubes are open. It also shows if the shape of your uterine cavity is normal. This is an outpatient procedure that usually takes less than 30 minutes. It is often done on cycle days 8 to 12.



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Procedure

You will lie on a table under a fluoroscope (a real-time x-ray imager). The doctor examines your uterus and places a speculum in your vagina. Your cervix is cleaned and a cannula is placed into the opening of your cervix. Your doctor then gently fills your uterus with a contrast liquid through the cannula. The contrast enters the tubes, outlines the length of the tubes and spills out their ends if they are open. In addition, your doctor can see any abnormalities within your uterine cavity on the x-ray images. The HSG procedure is not used to evaluate the ovaries or diagnose endometriosis.

What to Expect

An HSG often causes uterine cramping for about 5 to 10 minutes. It is common to have cramps for a few hours. Medicines for menstrual cramps may help with the cramping.

Effect on Fertility

It is unclear if this procedure improves fertility. Some studies show a slight increase in fertility which lasts about 3 months after a normal HSG.

Risks

An HSG is a very safe procedure. Serious risks are rare. The most common risk is vaginal spotting lasting 1 to 2 days after the HSG. More serious risks include:

- **Infection.** This occurs more often if you have a history of tubal disease such as a dilated tube or tubal infection. In rare cases, infection can damage the fallopian tubes or require their removal. You should call your doctor if you have increasing pain or a fever within 1 to 2 days after the HSG.
- **Fainting.** You may feel light-headed during or shortly after the procedure.
- **Radiation exposure.** There have been no known negative effects from this radiation, even if conception occurs later the same month.

- **Iodine allergy.** Rarely, a woman may have an allergy to the iodine contrast used in an HSG. Tell your doctor if you are allergic to iodine, intravenous contrast dyes or seafood. **If you notice a rash, itching or swelling after the procedure, tell your doctor right away.**

Scheduling

- Your fertility doctor or OB/GYN places the order for this test.
- The test is often performed between days 8 and 12 of your menstrual cycle. You must call on cycle day 1.
- Take 800 mg of Motrin® (if not allergic) 1 hour before your procedure.
- Optional: Take 100 mg of doxycycline 2 times a day (if not allergic) with food. Begin taking this medicine the day before your procedure and continue to take for 5 days. This helps prevent infection. Your doctor will prescribe this medicine if needed.