

X-rays of Uterus and Fallopian Tubes

Hysterosalpingography (HSG)

You have made an appointment with your gynaecologist or fertility doctor for an X-ray examination of your uterus and fallopian tubes. This is called hysterosalpingography (HSG). This leaflet provides more information about the examination and is meant to supplement the information you received from your doctor.

What is hysterosalpingography?

Hysterosalpingography is an X-ray that allows your doctor to view the shape of the uterus and the patency of the fallopian tubes using a contrast dye. You can watch the examination on a TV monitor.

Please note

Report hypersensitivity to iodine and contrast dye in advance

If you know that you are hypersensitive to iodine, you must inform your doctor or the assistant in advance. You should also let us know if you are hypersensitive to contrast dye.

Why is this examination necessary?

This examination takes place when you are having difficulty becoming pregnant. Your doctor examines whether the fallopian tubes are open. Sometimes the examination is done to check that the fallopian tubes are closed properly after sterilisation.

When does this examination take place?

The date and time of the examination will be agreed upon when you indicate or call through the date of the first day of your menstruation. The examination occurs just after menstruation and before ovulation (between day 7 and day 12 of the cycle). There must be no chance of you being pregnant at the time of the examination. If the examination is performed as a post-sterilisation review, it can be done at any time during the cycle.

Appointment

For an appointment, call the biometrics department on +31 40 888 95 58. If you are unable to attend, please call on time reschedule your appointment.

The information in this brochure is general in nature and is intended to give you an idea of the care and guidance you can expect. In your own situation, other advice or procedures may apply. This brochure is therefore only an addition to the specific (verbal) information from your specialist or practitioner.

Preparation at home

Antibiotic

To reduce the risk of infection due to the procedure, take 2 tablets of antibiotics the night before the procedure.

Pain relief

You will be given a prescription for painkillers. Take the painkillers about an hour before you come to the hospital.

Someone to accompany you to the hospital

We recommend that you bring someone with you who can take you home after the examination.

The examination

On the day of the examination, report to the Radiology Department (Eindhoven location: 1st floor, route 180, Veldhoven location: ground floor, route 55).

The technician will call you into the Radiology Department. You can remove your undergarments in a changing room. You will lie on your back on the X-ray table. The gynaecologist or fertility doctor will insert a speculum (spreader) into your vagina. The vagina will be disinfected with non-corrosive iodine. This will feel cold but does not sting.

The doctor will slide a thin tube with a small balloon through the cervix into the uterus. After inflating the balloon, contrast liquid is injected into the uterus and fallopian tubes. This can cause stomach pain or cramps similar to menstrual cramps, but these should only last a couple of minutes. The contrast dye makes your uterus and fallopian tubes visible on a monitor. This allows the doctor to take a good look at everything and see whether your fallopian tubes are sufficiently open. Sometimes an extra (standing) abdominal overview X-ray is taken an hour later. The doctor will let you know if this is necessary.

It is impossible to say in advance how painful the examination will be, but some people perceive it to be unpleasant. The examination takes about 30 minutes.

After the examination

You may experience some vaginal blood loss or abdominal pain after the examination. You can have intercourse once the blood loss or discharge has stopped.

The results

The provisional results may be communicated to you during the examination. You will receive the final results later at the appointment with your doctor at the outpatient clinic.

Questions

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, please call the biometrics department on telephone number +31 40 888 95 58.