

HYSTEROSALPINGOGRAM

The hysterosalpingogram, or HSG, is an X-ray of the uterus and fallopian tubes. The procedure involves placing radiopaque dye into the uterus. A special instrument is placed through the vagina and into the cervix. X-ray pictures are then taken as the dye passes through the uterus. The dye continues out the ends of the fallopian tubes. This test helps to determine if the uterus is normally shaped and the tubes are open. It is a short procedure usually taking only 10 to 15 minutes. A second X-ray may be taken one hour after the initial procedure.

Risks and Side Effects

During the procedure, you may experience mild menstrual-like cramps and feel slightly dizzy. You may have cramping along with light bleeding for a day or so after the procedure. These symptoms are to be expected. They are not any cause for alarm. You may take pain killers such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Advil®, Nuprin®, or Motrin®), or naproxen sodium (Anaprox®) before and after the procedure to reduce cramping.

The main risks of an HSG are infection, allergic reaction to the dye and flow of dye into the blood vessels. Organisms are already present in the vagina. They flow upward when the dye is injected. This can cause the infection of the uterus and tubes. Although a special solution is used to clean the vagina, you should understand that it is not possible to kill all organisms.

If you are allergic to X-ray contrast dye, iodine or shellfish, please let us know. You may be allergic to the dye used for the HSG. If you develop hives, shortness of breath or a rash, you should tell your nurse or doctor as soon as possible. On occasion, as the dye enters into the uterus, it may flow into blood vessels. Very rarely can this become life-threatening.

It is normal to have vaginal spotting for a couple of days after the procedure. Most patients have no problems following an HSG. However, it is not normal to have acute stomach pain, heavy bleeding or fever. These symptoms can occur in the first few days after the procedure. You should notify your nurse if any of these symptoms occur.

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Center for Reproductive Medicine

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For other general information about healthcare services at Cedars-Sinai, call 1-800-CEDARS-1 (1-800-233-2771).

Instructions

To schedule an HSG at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, please follow the instructions listed below:

- When you start your period, please call the S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center at Cedars-Sinai directly at (310) 423-8000 to schedule your HSG. We do not want to interrupt a pregnancy. HSGs are performed after your menstrual flow has stopped but before you ovulate. In general, this procedure is scheduled between cycle days six and 12. Once you know your HSG appointment, please call the Center for Reproductive Medicine at (310) 423-9964 to tell us the date of your procedure.
- On the day of your HSG, please have someone come with you who can drive you home.
- Some patients experience mild, menstrual-like cramps. We

recommend that you take 600 mg of Advil® or Motrin® approximately 30 to 45 minutes before your scheduled appointment. This will minimize any discomfort.

- You will be informed of the initial results at the time of the procedure. For more discussion of your results and treatment plan, please schedule an appointment with your physician. This should occur about two weeks after your HSG.
- It is normal to have vaginal spotting for a couple of days after the procedure. Most patients have no problems following an HSG. However, if you experience abdominal pain, heavy bleeding or a fever, please call your nurse or doctor.

If you have any questions about the HSG, please do not hesitate to call your nurse or doctor.