

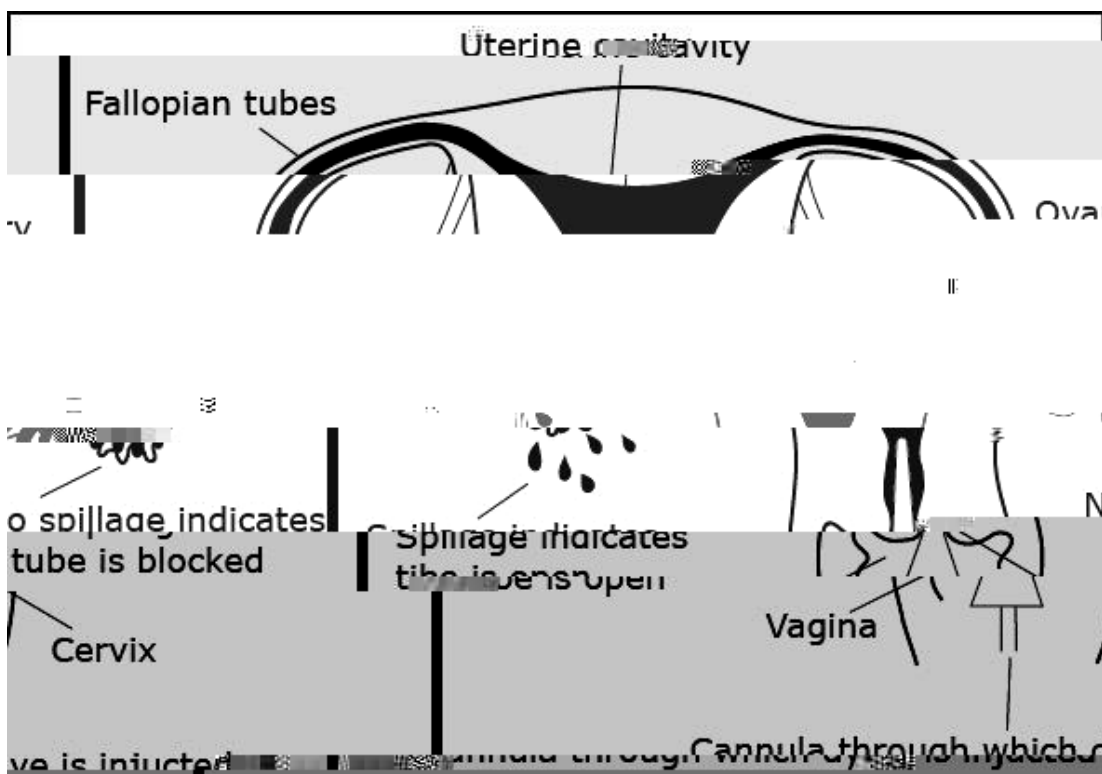
Having a Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

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What is a Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

A hysterosalpingogram or HSG is an x-ray procedure performed to determine whether the fallopian tubes are open and to see if the shape of the uterine cavity is normal. HSG is an outpatient procedure that takes less than 30 minutes to perform. It is usually done after your period has ended, but before ovulation, to prevent interference with an early pregnancy.



The procedure is undertaken in the X-ray department. No anaesthetic is necessary, but some women do experience a degree of discomfort when the dye is introduced. This should last no more than a few minutes. You may wish to take tablets like ibuprofen 30 minutes prior to your test.

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-time x-ray imager) on a table. The gynaecologist then examines her uterus and places a speculum in her vagina. Her cervix is cleaned, and a device (cannula) is placed into the opening of the cervix. The contrast) through the cannula. The contrast then enters the tubes, out-lines the length of the tubes, and spills out of their ends if they are open (please see diagram for clarification). Any abnormalities in the uterine cavity or fallopian tubes will be visible on a monitor.

The HSG is not designed to evaluate the ovaries or diagnose endometriosis.

Frequently, side views of the uterus and tubes are obtained by having the patient change her position on the table. After the HSG, a patient can immediately resume normal activities.

The HSG can be carried out on any day during your cycle providing your period has

Radiation exposure Radiation exposure from this procedure is very low, less than kidney or bowel x-rays, and there have been no demonstrated ill effects from this radiation, even if conception occurs later the same month which is not advisable. The HSG should not be done if pregnancy is suspected.

Iodine allergy Rarely, a patient may have an allergy to the iodine contrast used in performing HSG. The patient should inform her doctor if she is allergic to iodine, intravenous contrast dyes, or seafood. Patients who are allergic to iodine may need an alternative test undertaken. If a patient experiences a rash, itching or swelling after the procedure, she should contact her doctor.

Spotting Spotting commonly occurs for one to two days after the HSG. Unless instructed otherwise, a patient should notify her doctor if she experiences heavy bleeding after the HSG.

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