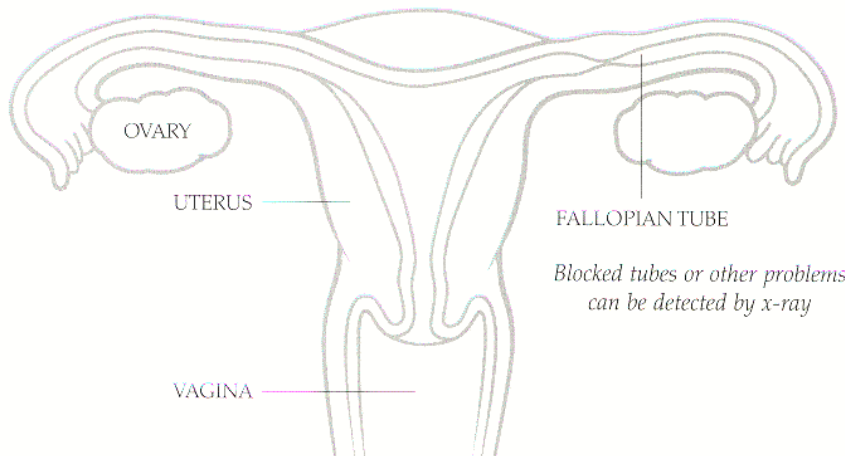


Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

A hysterosalpingogram (HIS-ta-ro-sal-PING-o-gram) is a test that lets your doctor examine the inside walls of your uterus and fallopian tubes.

Having a blocked fallopian tube or a growth in your uterus can reduce your chances for pregnancy. If your fallopian tubes are blocked, the sperm can't reach the egg. A hysterosalpingogram (HSG) is a test that uses x-rays and a special dye to detect scar tissue, polyps, fibroids, and other growths that may be blocking your tubes or preventing a fertilized egg from implanting properly in your uterus. Another test called a sonohysterogram (SON-o-HIS-ta-ro-gram), uses ultrasound and a special solution to detect abnormalities inside the uterus. However, the sonohysterogram cannot be used to detect blocked fallopian tubes.



What to expect during the HSG

The HSG is usually done in a radiology lab and takes between 10 to 30 minutes. Your doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina (like when you have a Pap smear), and then place a thin plastic tube inside your cervix that will lead to your uterus and fallopian tubes. A special dye will be injected through the plastic tube. The dye should fill your uterus and fallopian tubes, and spill out of each fallopian tube. Next, x-rays will be taken, and your doctor can evaluate your uterus and fallopian tubes.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q A friend of mine had an HSG and she said it was painful. Is that true?

A Many women feel some cramping, especially when the dye is injected. Women who have a blocked fallopian tube may feel intense pain. Over-the-counter pain medicines such as ibuprofen can help relieve this pain or discomfort. Speak to your doctor about taking a pain medicine 30 to 60 minutes *before* the procedure to prevent or reduce pain during the test.

Q Is it OK to drive home by myself after the test?

A Many women have no pain after the HSG, but you may feel crampy or achy after the procedure, so it's a good idea to have someone else drive you home.

Q What are the risks of a hysterosalpingogram?

A The risks of the HSG include pain or discomfort, infection, and vaginal spotting or bleeding. Contact your doctor if you develop a fever or continue to feel pain for more than a few days.

Q When is the best time during my cycle to schedule the HSG?

A The test should be scheduled after your period ends, but *before* you expect to ovulate, usually between days 6 to 10 of your menstrual cycle. To figure out the days of your cycle, count day 1 as the day your period begins.