

Queries / questions

If you have any queries about your appointment then please contact:

X-ray Department

Tel: 0115 970 9159

For queries relating to the actual procedure contact:

The Fertility Unit

Tel: 0115 970 9238

Notes

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

Freephone: 0800 183 0204

From a mobile or abroad:

0115 924 9924 ext 65412 or 62301

E-mail: pals@nuh.nhs.uk

Letter: NUH NHS Trust, c/o PALS,
Freepost NEA 14614,
Nottingham NG7 1BR

www.nuh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

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Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

Information for patients

Fertility Unit

This document can be provided in different languages and formats. For more information please contact:

Fertility Outpatients
B Floor, East Block
Queen's Medical Centre
Derby Road
Nottingham NG7 2UH

Tel: 0115 970 9238
fertility.enquiries@nuh.nhs.uk

What is a hysterosalpingogram?

A HSG is a test performed using x-ray to look at the womb and fallopian tubes. It helps to show any blockages or abnormalities of the fallopian tubes that may cause difficulties in becoming pregnant.

The appointment usually takes between 20 and 30 mins, with the actual procedure taking only 5 - 10 minutes.

The examination cannot be performed if there is any chance of you being pregnant. We therefore only perform this procedure between day 6 and 14 of your menstrual cycle. Day 1 is counted as the first day your period starts.

Booking your HSG appointment

If you have regular periods then please telephone the Fertility Unit on 0115 970 9238 on the first day of your period, or as soon as possible if this falls on the weekend or a bank holiday. We will then try to arrange an appointment for you at the appropriate time of your cycle.

If you have irregular periods you will need to have two pregnancy tests performed two weeks apart to ensure you are not pregnant. You will be given an appointment to attend the fertility clinic for a pregnancy test and the HSG will then be arranged two

It is very important that you refrain from having sexual intercourse, protected or otherwise, from the time of booking your appointment until after the examination is complete.

Where is this test performed?

The test is done in the main x-ray department on B Floor, near to the main entrance. You should report to reception 20 minutes prior to your appointment time.

How is the test performed?

On the day of the examination you can eat and drink normally. The test may cause some slight discomfort similar to period pains and we recommend that you take two Paracetamol or Ibuprofen tablets 30 minutes before the test.

On arrival you will be asked to produce a urine sample and then asked some questions so that we are certain you are not pregnant and that it is safe to proceed. We recommend that you bring a sanitary towel / pad with you. Please have a small snack prior to your appointment.

The procedure will be performed by a specially trained nurse. A radiographer will also be present to help take the x-ray pictures. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have and we will do our utmost to ensure your privacy and comfort.

You will be asked to lie on the x-ray table and the nurse will insert a speculum into your vagina to locate your cervix (neck of the womb). This is similar to having a cervical smear.

A thin tube called a catheter will be passed into the cervix and a small amount of special x-ray contrast (dye) is injected through the tube into your uterus (womb).

The aim is to confirm the passage of the contrast along your fallopian tubes. X-ray images can then be taken and these provide a permanent record.

Very occasionally if we are unable to see the fallopian tubes a small intravenous injection of a smooth muscle relaxant called Buscopan is given. This injection will not make you sleepy but may temporarily give you a dry mouth and blurred vision. If this happens you will not be able to drive that day. For this reason it may be advisable to have someone waiting to collect you.

Getting the results

We would hope to give you as much information regarding the results of the test at the time of the examination. Occasionally we need to look at the pictures more closely and we will send a report back to the fertility clinic. This can take up to 2-3 weeks.

Side effects of the examination

A HSG examination is safe and well tolerated. Following the examination you may have some period-like pain or spotting. This is normal and usually subsides within one or two days.

There is a small risk of infection following the procedure, particularly if we think you have a blocked tube. Some patients may be given a course of antibiotics to take afterwards. If any bleeding persists or smells offensive you should contact the clinic or your GP if out of hours.