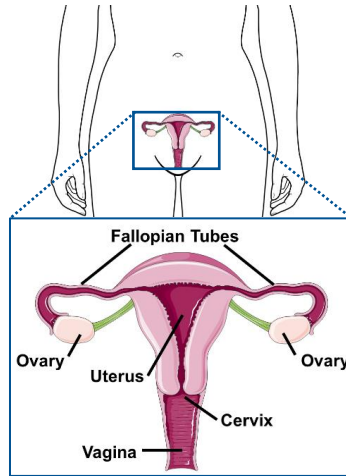


Hysterosalpingogram

What is a hysterosalpingogram?

A hysterosalpingogram (say *hiss-ter-oh-sal-ping-go-gram*) is an x-ray procedure. We use it to look at the inside of the womb, or uterus, and the fallopian tubes. It allows us to see if the fallopian tubes are partly or completely blocked. It can also show the size, shape, and position of the uterus in the pelvis.



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Who should not have this procedure?

This procedure is not done and will be cancelled if any of the following are true for you:

- You are pregnant.
- You have had a pelvic infection or pelvic surgery within a month of this procedure.
- You have uterine bleeding or your menstrual cycle at the time of procedure.
- You have had sexual intercourse, either protected or unprotected, within 7 to 10 days from the start of your monthly bleeding and the date of this procedure.
- You have reacted to, or an allergy to, iodinated contrast media.

How long will it take?

The procedure usually takes 20 to 30 minutes. We might ask you to be at the hospital for 1 to 2 hours before the procedure for tests such as a blood test to make sure you are not pregnant. We let you know how long you will be when we call to arrange the appointment.

Will it hurt?

You might have some cramping during the procedure. This usually only lasts for a short time.

Who does the procedure?

A radiologist is a doctor who specializes in imaging and image-guided procedures. A medical radiation technologist runs the equipment. Together, they use real time x-ray called fluoroscopy to do this procedure.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, if you wish. They can be with you before and after the procedure. However, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We let them know where they can wait.

Please arrange childcare for your children.

Do not bring children with you. We do not have anyone to look after children and they cannot come into the procedure room with you.

What happens before the procedure?

Either someone from our Medical Imaging Department or your doctor's office contacts you with specific instructions for how to prepare.

We ask everyone to have a pregnancy test within 24 hours of the procedure.

We schedule the procedure to happen 7 to 10 days after the start of your period (monthly bleeding). We do this for 2 reasons. This lessens the chances of any discomfort you might have. This is also when you are least likely to be pregnant. If you have irregular periods, we can do the procedure up to 12 days after you started bleeding.

When you check-in, you complete an intake form with some screening and health questions. Some of the questions are about reproductive health. Please answer the questions as accurately and completely as possible. We review the questions with you before we start.

What happens during the procedure?

You lie on your back with your feet and legs placed as for a pelvic exam.

The radiologist does the following:

- Cleans the area between your legs.
- Inserts a device, called a speculum, into the vagina.
- Cleans the cervix to reduce chances of infection.
- Inserts a thin, flexible tube called a catheter into the cervix. Some catheters have a small balloon on the end. You might feel some pressure as the balloon is inflated.
- Injects the contrast media through the catheter. This increases the pressure in the uterus and can cause cramping. This is normal and can last 10 to 30 seconds.
- Takes x-ray images as the contrast moves into the uterus and fallopian tubes.
- Might ask you to change positions to move the contrast around in your uterus and fallopian tubes. The medical radiation technologist is there to help you with this, if needed.
- Removes the catheter, after deflating the balloon if there is one.
- Removes the speculum if not already done.
- Checks with you to see if you have any questions about how to care for yourself after the procedure.

Locations

Abbotsford Regional Hospital	604-851-4868
Chilliwack General Hospital	604-795-4122
Eagle Ridge Hospital	604-469-3172
Langley Memorial Hospital	604-533-6405
Lions Gate Hospital	604-988-3131 Ext. 4517
Ridge Meadows Hospital	604-463-1800
Royal Columbian Hospital	604-520-4642
University of BC Hospital	604-822-1797

What should I expect after the procedure?

Return to your every day activities. Check with your doctor before doing any strenuous activities or exercise.

Take only showers for the next 2 days. Do not take a bath, go in a hot tub, or swim.

Expect to have sticky fluid coming out of your vagina as the contrast media drains out of the uterus. You might see some spotting of blood as well. Use a sanitary pad. Do not use any tampons until your next period.

Expect some cramping for the next 24 to 48 hours. If needed, take whatever pain medicine you use for minor aches and pains.

For the next 2 days, do not insert anything into your vagina. Do not have sexual intercourse (receptive sex), either protected or unprotected sex. This helps prevent any infection.

When will I get my results?

We send a report to the doctor who ordered the procedure and your family doctor. It can take 7 to 10 days. Make an appointment with the doctor to review the results.

When to get help?

Call your doctor or go to the nearest Emergency Department if you notice any of the following:

- heavy bleeding or continued bleeding more than your normal monthly bleeding
- signs of infection such as a fever over 38.5°C (101°F), chills, body aches, unusual or foul smelling fluid coming from your vagina
- bad stomach pain or cramps for more than 3 days not eased with pain medicine
- throwing up (vomiting)
- fainting
- no urine (pee) for more than 8 to 10 hours, even with drinking fluids