



About Your Hysterosalpingogram

How to prepare and what to expect

This handout is for patients who are having a hysterosalpingogram exam. It explains how to prepare and what to expect.

What is a hysterosalpingogram?

A *hysterosalpingogram* (HSG) is an X-ray exam. It shows if your fallopian tubes are open and if the inside of your uterus is normal. This exam is usually done after your menstrual period ends, but before you start ovulating.

How do I prepare?

- Based on your health history, your University Reproductive Care (URC) provider will decide if you need a *prophylactic antibiotic* (medicine taken before a procedure to prevent infection). If needed, we will order the medicine for you.
- Before you have your HSG, we will make sure you have been tested recently for *chlamydia* and *gonorrhea* (2 diseases transmitted by sexual contact).
- Please take 600 mg of ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) 1 hour before your exam. This will help ease cramping you may have during the exam.

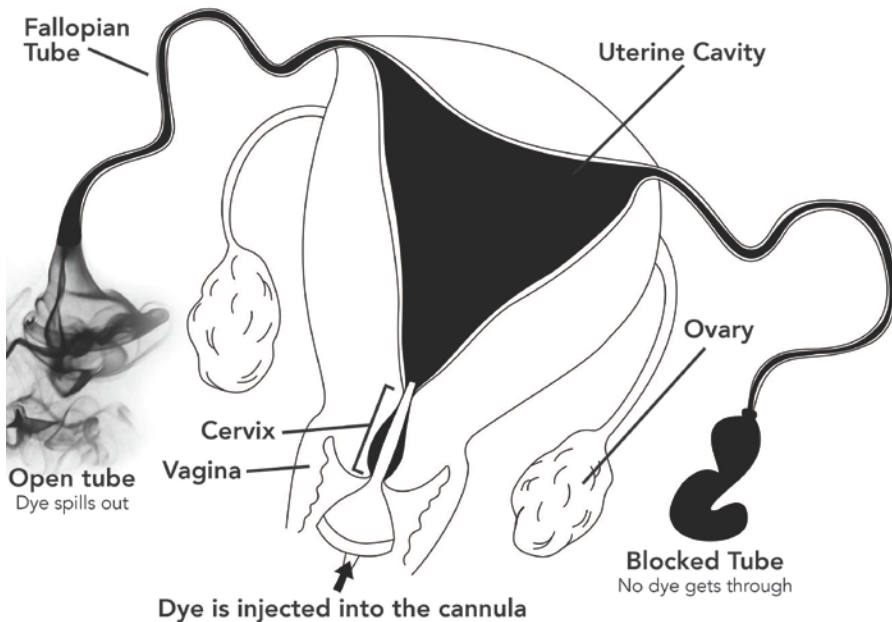
What to Expect

- Please check in at the URC clinic on the 3rd floor of the UWMC-Roosevelt building at 4245 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, 98105.
- We will give you a urine pregnancy test and take your blood pressure and pulse.
- We will escort you to the Radiology department on the 2nd floor. We will ask you to change into a hospital gown.



Check in at the front desk of the URC clinic for your appointment.

- We will ask you to lie down on an exam table. An X-ray machine called a *fluoroscope* will be above you.
- Your HSG will be done by a URC provider. Your provider will talk with you after the exam and share the first findings.
- You will be in the Radiology department about 30 minutes.



How is the exam done?

Your provider will:

- Use a device called a *speculum* to see your cervix
- Clean the area with an antiseptic medicine called *betadine*
- Gently place a tube (*cannula*) in the opening of your cervix
- Inject *contrast* (X-ray dye) into the tube

The contrast will move through your uterus and into your fallopian tubes. It will spill out the end of your fallopian tubes if they are open. X-ray images will show where the contrast is moving.

What are the risks of an HSG?

For most women, an HSG is safe. There is a small risk of having an allergic reaction to the contrast, getting a pelvic infection, or fainting after the exam. Your exposure to radiation during an HSG is very low. Most women will have mild to moderate cramping during an HSG.

After the Exam

- You may feel light-headed during the exam or for a short time after.
- You may have spotting 1 to 2 days after the exam.
- Most women go back to their normal activities right after the exam.

When to Call

Call us **right away** at 206.598.4225 if you have:

- Heavy bleeding (soaking more than 1 pad or tampon in 1 hour) or bleeding that lasts longer than 4 days
- A fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher
- Bad belly pain

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

University Reproductive
Care: 206.598.4225

[www.uwmedicine.org/
uwfertility](http://www.uwmedicine.org/uwfertility)