

A Hysterosalpingogram is an x-ray examination of the uterus (womb) and uterine tubes. It can show the Doctor the shape of the uterus and whether your tubes are open or whether they are blocked.

To arrange a Hysterosalpingogram please telephone 01234 792066 (Suzanne Williams) between 9:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday on the first day of your period. It is very important that you are not having a period at the time of examination, but if you are still bleeding by the date of your examination, you must telephone 01234 792066 to arrange another appointment. It is also important that you are not pregnant so a date for the examination will be planned for a time shortly after your period has finished and before the expected time of ovulation in that cycle. It may not be possible to carry out this first test in the first month, in which case you will be asked to call back at the start of your next period.

The examination will be carried out at South Wing X-ray Department on Tuesdays. You will be asked to undress in a private cubicle and put on an examination gown before entering the x-ray room where there will be a couch for you to lie on. The Doctor will explain to you what he or she is going to do.

You will be given an internal examination and a special cervical cap is attached to your cervix or the Doctor may choose to give you a catheter through your cervix. Once this is in place (and this can sometimes take a while to attach), a special x-ray dye is then passed through the cervix into the uterus. The dye fills the uterus and tubes and a series of x-ray films are taken as it flows through. The whole procedure may take 10 – 20 minutes and you will experience some period like cramps, which may become quite severe for a while but these will pass off shortly after the examination is completed. You may reduce this pain by taking Ibuprofen 400mg or Paracetamol (1 gram), i.e. 2 x 500mg tablets, one hour before the procedure.

You may have some slight vaginal bleeding following the examination and some clear dye may run out, this is to be expected and do not be concerned unless you have heavy bleeding or the pain increases. Persistent pain six hours or more after the procedure will need investigation so you must contact your GP should this happen. This bleeding is not a period, you should expect the next period at the usual time it is due.

At the time of examination the Doctor may be able to give you some information and answer some of your questions but a full report will be sent to your consultant at the clinic in time for your next appointment.