HYSTEROSALPINGOGRAM (HSG)

**WHAT IS THE TEST?**

A hysterosalpingogram, or HSG, is an x-ray procedure to determine if the fallopian tubes are open and determine

the shape of the uterine cavity. **Please note: The test usually takes place between days 5-12 after the first day of**

**your period. This is to ensure you are definitely not pregnant when the test is carried out.**

You will be asked to take prophylactic antibiotics after the procedure. These will be prescribed to you by the

Consultant.

This procedure is carried out by one of the Portland Hospital Gynaecology Consultants (bookings are made

through their secretaries), or by our Consultant Radiologist, booked via the Imaging department.

**WHAT DOES THE TEST INVOLVE?**

A small amount of contrast dye is introduced via a small tube placed in the cervical canal. The procedure is similar

to when you have a PAP smear taken. You may experience some discomfort during the examination, which is

similar to period pain; this only lasts a short time. The Consultant takes some pictures of the contrast dye flowing

through the fallopian tubes. The examination usually takes about 10 – 15 minutes. The dye is quickly absorbed

from the abdominal cavity and does not usually have any harmful effects. You will not need an anaesthetic for

this procedure.

**IS THE TEST PAINFUL?**

The test is well tolerated by most women and although it should not be painful, it may be uncomfortable. Some

women report a feeling of pressure in the pelvis or a crampy feeling similar to period pain. It is recommended

that you take some simple analgesia such as Ibuprofen 400mg orally two hours before the procedure to ensure

you are as comfortable as possible.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

Your doctor believes that you will benefit from this procedure, and that the benefits outweigh the risks. On very

rare occasions you can have a reaction to the contrast dye. This could result in a rash, itching, nausea, fainting or

shortness of breath. You will be treated immediately if this occurs.

Any exposure to radiation (x-rays) carries some risk. Additional information on Radiation Protection can be

provided.

Infection rarely occurs, less than 1%, but should you experience any fever, increasing abdominal pain and/or

unpleasant vaginal discharge within 24 - 72 hours after the HSG, contact your doctor who referred you for the

test.

**WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE TEST?**

A sanitary towel will be provided for your protection to catch the small amount of contrast which will leak out.

You should be able to resume normal activities after your examination.

You may experience some pain following the procedure for which you may take some simple analgesia such as

Ibuprofen 400mg. We recommend you refrain from intercourse for 24 hours afterwards.



Spotting can occur for 1-2 days after the procedure. However, if the bleeding continues and particularly if it

becomes heavy with clots, it is important to obtain medical advice promptly. This can be your GP, Gynaecologist

or your nearest A&E department.

If you have any queries, please call the Radiology Department on 020 7390 6082.

