



**Making Families a Reality**

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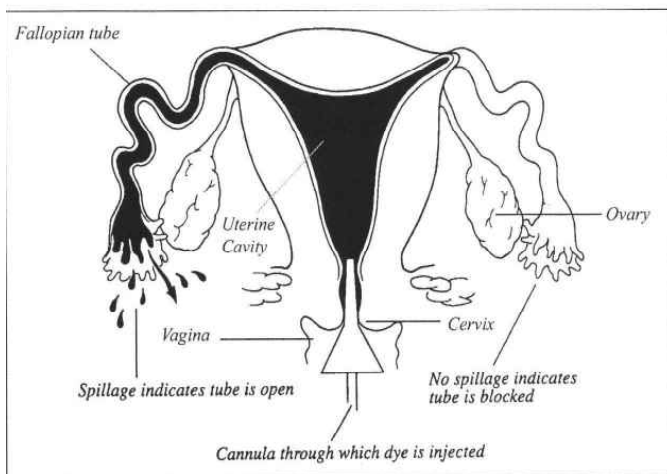
## Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

### What is a hysterosalpingogram (HSG)?

A hysterosalpingogram or HSG is an x-ray procedure performed to determine whether the fallopian tubes are open and to see if the shape of the uterine cavity is normal. An HSG is an outpatient procedure that can be done at Rex Hospital or an outpatient imaging facility that takes less than one half-hour to perform. It is usually done after menses has ended, but before ovulation, to prevent interference with an early pregnancy. It should be done before day 12 of your cycle.

### How is a hysterosalpingogram done?

A patient is positioned under a fluoroscope (a real-time x-ray imager) on a table. One of Carolina Conceptions physicians or radiologist examines your uterus and places a speculum in your vagina. A catheter is placed into the uterus. The physician will then gently fill the uterus with liquid containing iodine (contrast) through the cannula. The contrast then enters the tubes, outlines the length of the tubes, and spills out their ends if they are open. Any abnormalities in the uterine cavity or fallopian tubes will be visible on a monitor. The HSG is not designed to evaluate the ovaries or diagnose endometriosis. Sometimes, side views of the uterus and tube are obtained by having the patient change her position on the table. After the HSG, a patient can immediately resume normal activities.



### Is it uncomfortable?

An HSG usually causes mild or moderate uterine cramping for about five minutes; however, some women may experience cramps for several hours. The symptoms can be greatly reduced by taking medications used for menstrual cramps. *Please take 800mg of Motrin one hour before procedure.* The physicians will prescribe a narcotic if you desire one prior to the HSG.

### Does a hysterosalpingogram enhance fertility?

It is controversial whether this procedure enhances fertility. Some studies indicate a slight increase in fertility.

### What are the risks and complications of HSG?

An HSG is considered a very safe procedure. However, there is a set of recognized complications, some serious, which occur less than 1% of the time. You will be asked to sign an informed consent at REX prior to your procedure.

**Infection** – The most common serious problem with HSG is pelvic infection. This usually occurs in the presence of previous tubal disease. In rare cases, infection can damage the fallopian tubes or necessitate their removal. Call Carolina Conceptions if you experience increasing pain or a fever within one to two days after the HSG.

**Fainting** – Rarely, the patient may get light-headed during or shortly after the procedure.

**Radiation Exposure** – Radiation exposure from a HSG is very low, less than a kidney or bowel study, and there have been no demonstrated ill effects from this radiation, even if conception occurs later the same month. The HSG should not be done if pregnancy is suspected.

**Iodine Allergy** – Rarely, a patient may have an allergy to the iodine contrast used in an HSG. A patient should inform her doctor if she is allergic to iodine, intravenous contrast dyes, or seafood.

**Spotting** – Spotting commonly occurs for one week after the HSG. Unless instructed otherwise, a patient should notify her doctor if she experiences heavy bleeding after the HSG.

### How do I schedule my HSG? (919)782-5911

Please call our office when your period starts. Call Monday if your period starts over the weekend. Drs. Couchman, Meyer and Park perform HSG's on a daily basis in our facility. If the time doesn't fit your schedule our staff can get you scheduled at an outpatient imaging facility or Rex Hospital to perform the HSG, whichever is the most economical for you based on your insurance.

### What is the cost of this procedure?

Most HSG's are performed for infertility and coding necessitates that we use that diagnosis. The cost of the HSG will be determined by your individual insurance. Since we are performing the procedure in our office, you will mostly likely have a copayment. If you have specific questions, please contact one of our financial coordinators to discuss. If you have no insurance then you will receive a 50% discount and need to pay \$537.50 at the time of your procedure.