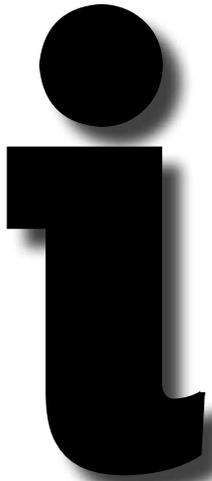


Having a Hysterosalpingogram

(1 of 2)



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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What is a Hysterosalpingogram?

A hysterosalpingogram is an X-ray examination of the uterus (womb) and Fallopian tubes. It involves introducing a radio-opaque contrast medium (a colourless liquid which acts as a dye) via a tube through the neck of the womb. It is usually used to check the status of the Fallopian tubes. The examination is carried out by a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in diagnostics) with the help of a Radiographer.

How do I make an appointment?

- the examination must be carried out in the first half of your menstrual cycle once the bleeding has stopped. This is usually between days 6 and 10.
- please phone the booking clerks at the Radiology Department at Salisbury District Hospital on day 1 of your period to make the appointment. The number is 01722 336262 ext 4196.
- it is important that you do not have sexual intercourse from the first day of the next menstrual cycle (bleeding starts) until after you have had this procedure. This is important as we need to ensure that there is no chance that you could be pregnant. On the day of the procedure we will ask you to sign a form to confirm you have followed these instructions and that you are not pregnant.
- if you are allergic to anything please let the radiology doctor know. If you have previously reacted to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for kidney X-rays or CT scans), please also tell the radiology doctor.

What happens on the day of the appointment?

We recommend you take pain relief (such as paracetamol or ibuprofen) one hour before the procedure. The examination usually takes about 20 minutes, but be prepared to spend 30-40 minutes in the department. Please come to the Clinical Radiology Department reception, level 3, at Salisbury District Hospital.

Please bring a recent urine sample with you in order for us to do a pregnancy test before your examination.

You will be asked to undress and put on a gown which ties at the back. You will be taken into the X-ray room where the doctor will explain the procedure. You will lie flat on a bed. A speculum will be inserted into the vagina, and a

Clinical Radiology
 **01722 336262 ext 4196**

small tube will be passed into the cervix (opening to the uterus). A dye that shows up with X rays is then injected through the tube to fill the uterus and Fallopian tubes. You may feel some cramp-like pain, similar to a period pain, which lasts for a few seconds.

Should I be worried about radiation risks?

No. With modern equipment the radiation dose is minimal. The equipment is constantly monitored and there are strict working practices by which we are legally bound to abide.

After the procedure

- you may feel mild discomfort similar to period-like pain. You may take your own pain relieving tablets for this.
- it is common to have slight vaginal bleeding for 2-3 days with a discharge of a colourless sticky fluid. This is the dye used in the procedure. You may wish to bring a sanitary pad.
- antibiotics may be given if the tubes are blocked but are otherwise not routinely administered.
- if you experience prolonged bleeding, severe lower abdominal pain or a temperature, please see your GP or telephone the department for advice during working hours on 01722 336262 ext 4196.

How do I get the results?

Results are sent to the referring doctor, usually the Consultant Gynaecologist. A copy of the report is routinely sent to your GP.

Suggestions or comments

Staff in the Radiology Department at Salisbury District Hospital are committed to providing a high quality service. If you have any suggestions or comments about your visit, please speak to a member of staff, fill in a comment card either within the Radiology department at the main reception or at the Customer Care Department, or contact Customer Care on 0800 374208 or email customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk.

Customer Care staff are available to listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and can help to sort out problems on your behalf.

For further information about the procedure or for specific clinical queries please contact the Radiology office on ext 4196.