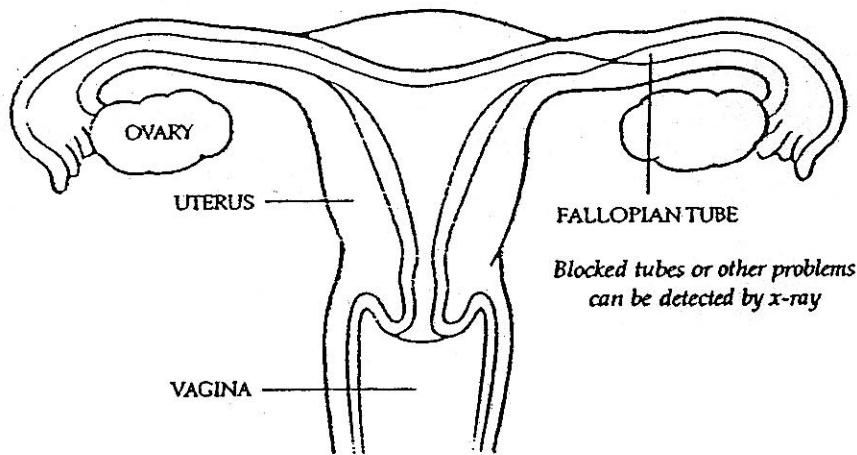


# Hysterosalpingogram (HSG)

A hysterosalpingogram (HIS-ta-ro-sal-PING-o-gram) is a test that lets your doctor examine the inside walls of your uterus and fallopian tubes.

Having a blocked fallopian tube or a growth in your uterus can reduce your chances for pregnancy. If your fallopian tubes are blocked, the sperm can't reach the egg. A hysterosalpingogram (HSG) is a test that uses x-rays and a special dye to detect scar tissue, polyps, fibroids, and other growths that may be blocking your tubes or preventing a fertilized egg from implanting properly in your uterus. Another test called a sonohysterogram (SON-o-HIS-ta-ro-gram), uses ultrasound and a special solution to detect abnormalities inside the uterus. However, the sonohysterogram cannot be used to detect blocked fallopian tubes.



## What to expect during the HSG

The HSG is usually done in a radiology lab and takes between 10 to 30 minutes. Your doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina (like when you have a Pap smear), and then place a thin plastic tube inside your cervix that will lead to your uterus and fallopian tubes. A special dye will be injected through the plastic tube. The dye should fill your uterus and fallopian tubes, and spill out of each fallopian tube. Next, x-rays will be taken, and your doctor can evaluate your uterus and fallopian tubes.

**Q** A friend of mine had an HSG and she said it was painful. Is that true?

**A** Many women feel some cramping, especially when the dye is injected. Women who have a blocked fallopian tube may feel intense pain. Over-the-counter pain medicines such as ibuprofen can help relieve this pain or discomfort. Speak to your doctor about taking a pain medicine 30 to 60 minutes *before* the procedure to prevent or reduce pain during the test.

**Q** Is it OK to drive home by myself after the test?

**A** Many women have no pain after the HSG, but you may feel crampy or achy after the procedure, so it's a good idea to have someone else drive you home.

**Q** What are the risks of a hysterosalpingogram?

**A** The risks of the HSG include pain or discomfort, infection, and vaginal spotting or bleeding. Contact your doctor if you develop a fever or continue to feel pain for more than a few days.

**Q** When is the best time during my cycle to schedule the HSG?

**A** The test should be scheduled after your period ends, but *before* you expect to ovulate, usually between days 6 to 10 of your menstrual cycle. To figure out the days of your cycle, count day 1 as the day your period begins.