Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Having an Hysterosalpingogram (Hycosy)

Patient information leaflet

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس‌پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أُخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

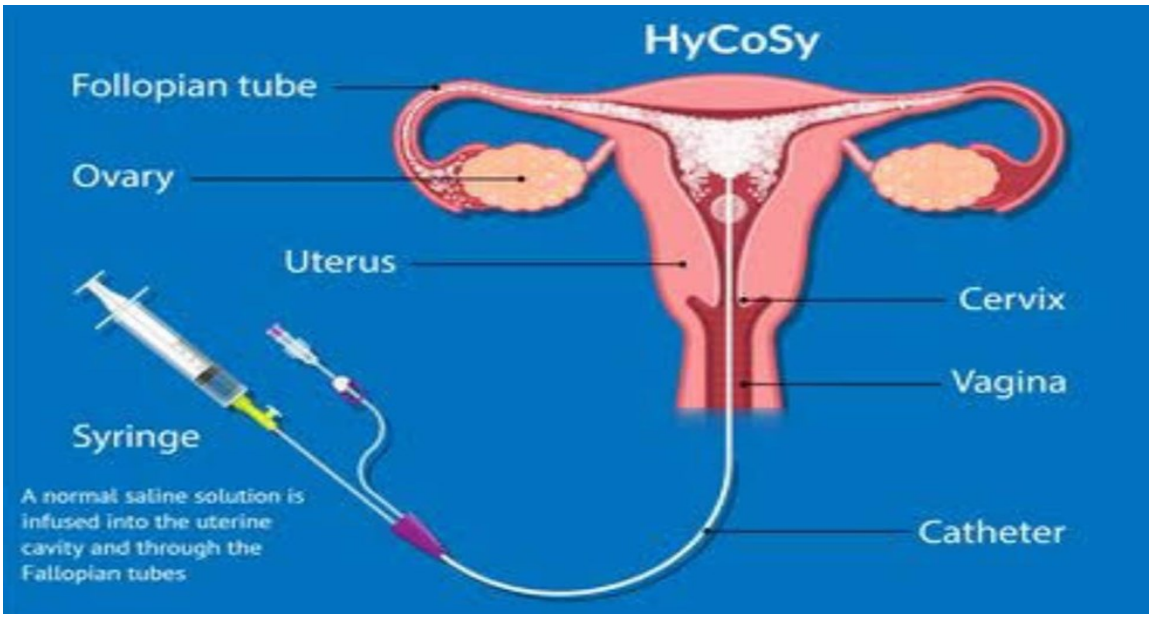
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What is a HYCOSY (Hysterosalpingogram)

A Hycosy is a test using ultrasound and a special fluid called Sonovue to examine the uterus and fallopian tubes.

Why do we perform HYCOSY

We use this test as an infertility investigation or as a check after tubal surgery. If either cavity of the uterus of the tubes are damaged it can prevent conception taking place. It is not possible to see the tubes with normal x-rays or ultrasound, so a specialist examination such as this is needed.



What does the examination entail?

The examination is performed in the Ultrasound Department. You will be asked to empty your bladder and the procedure will be explained by the sonographer.
You will be asked to lie on the bed and a cover will be draped over your lower body.
A transvaginal ultrasound examination will then be performed. This involves a thin ultrasound probe being introduced into the vagina. This is a routine gynaecological examination and should not hurt. This allows us to visualise the uterus and ovaries prior to the Hycosy. If this is satisfactory, the examination will then progress to Hycosy.

A speculum will be put into the vagina, which allows us to see the entrance to the womb (cervix). A small catheter will then be passed into the uterus. A tiny balloon which is attached to the catheter will be inflated to keep the catheter in place during the examination. This part of the examination should be no more uncomfortable than a smear test.

The speculum is then removed and a small amount of fluid is injected into the cavity under ultrasound control. The fluid shows up as a "bright white" on ultrasound and we can trace its course outlining the uterine cavity and tubes if there is no blockage. You may feel some discomfort similar to period pain, or you may feel faint. Usually this is alleviated by the use of usual painkillers such as aspirin, paracetamol, or ibuprofen. If you are worried about the discomfort, you may take your usual painkiller half an hour before the examination.

How long does the test take?

The procedure takes about half an hour.

What happens after the examination?

You may wish to bring a panty liner to wear as the fluid used is sticky. You may not feel able to return to work immediately after the examination. If possible, you should be accompanied by a partner or friend on your homeward journey, and you should not drive for an hour or so afterwards.

The examination will be reported by the sonographer and will be discussed in full at your next clinic visit.

Booking your appointment

The test cannot be performed if you are bleeding or there is a chance that you are pregnant. Should your appointment be at your predicted fertile time, or after day 14 of your menstrual cycle, you should avoid conception or use precautions (i.e. condoms) until after your Hycosy appointment.

Finally

The pictures taken during the examination are studied carefully and a detailed report is produced. The results will be sent to the person who referred you for the test. They will discuss the results with you and any treatment you may need.

You may already have an appointment with the team who referred you. If not, please contact them to arrange one to discuss the results of this test.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the Radiology Department via the number given on your appointment letter.

As this is a teaching hospital there may be students and observers present during your examination as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance.

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