

Hysterosalpingo-contrast sonography (HyCoSy)

Patient information

This patient information sheet should answer any questions you have about your procedure. If you still have questions after reading this, you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website www.theholly.com, telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email diagnostics@theholly.com

What is a HyCoSy?

The Hysterosalpingo-contrast sonography or HyCoSy as it is more commonly known as an ultrasound investigation to check that your fallopian tubes, which carry an egg from the ovary to the uterus (womb), are open (patent). An internal vaginal ultrasound scan is also performed to examine the uterus and ovaries.

The test is carried out within the first 10-12 days of your period cycle (after you have stopped bleeding). The first day of bleeding is counted as day one of your cycle. This is so that there is no chance of you being pregnant at the time the HyCoSy is performed. If you have irregular periods it may be necessary to have a pregnancy test to confirm you are not in fact already pregnant.

You must avoid sexual intercourse between day one of your cycle until

after the examination. To reduce the risk of infection you will be asked to take an antibiotic before the procedure.

On the day of your HyCoSy appointment you will also be asked to take two ibuprofen tablets, or your usual painkillers, half an hour before the examination.

The HyCoSy Procedure

An internal vaginal ultrasound scan will be performed to assess the womb and ovaries. Following this a speculum is introduced into the vagina (similar to having a smear test). Then a thin tube called a catheter is inserted through the cervix (the neck of the womb) and into the uterus. This may take a few minutes and can sometimes be a little uncomfortable similar to a period pain.

Once the catheter is in place the speculum can then be removed and the

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ultrasound probe placed back into the vagina. The contrast agent is then injected very slowly through the catheter into the womb allowing the flow through the fallopian tubes to be seen on ultrasound indicating that the tubes are patent. The whole procedure should take between 20-30 minutes. If you have any queries or are unsure of anything please ask the Sonographer or Doctor who will be performing your test.

Possible side effects

You may feel cramping, like period pain whilst the contrast is injected into the womb. This may only last a few minutes. Other possible side effects that may be experienced are sweating, nausea, headaches and dizziness. You may also have some spotting for a couple of days after the procedure.

Are there any risks involved?

The main risks are bleeding and the introduction of infection. Any bleeding should settle after a few days and the examination is undertaken using sterile techniques with antibiotic cover to reduce the risk of infection.

What happens after the test?

Following your HyCoSy test the doctor will explain the results to you and a copy of the results will be sent to your referring doctor.

Important billing information for private patients

We respectfully request that your account is settled either by insurance authorisation of payment at the time of your appointment. Please be aware that your will receive a separate invoice from the Pathology Department for the histology tests. If you have any queries about this you can contact the department on 020 8936 1204.

If you fail to attend any appointments or if less than 24 hours' notice is given to cancel an appointment we will charge a fee.

Further information

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries. You can telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email diagnostics@theholly.com. Alternatively you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website www.theholly.com

If you would like a copy of this information in large print or an alternative language, please call 020 8936 1214.

Please note we are unable to provide child care facilities during your examination and in most cases children will be unable to accompany you into the examination rooms.

Call: 020 8505 3311 (Main Switchboard)

Call: 020 8936 1202 (Diagnostics Centre)

Email: diagnostics@theholly.com

Visit: theholly.com

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