

**THE FERTILITY CENTER OF MARYLAND**  
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**PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYSTEOSALPINGOGRAM (HSG)**

The hysterosalpingogram or HSG is used to evaluate the shape of the uterine cavity and tubal patency. On the first day of your period, please call and schedule the HSG for approximately cycle day 6-12. You cannot be spotting or bleeding on the day of the HSG. If the HSG cannot be scheduled with one of our doctors, your OB/GYN or a Radiologist at a participating Radiology Center can do it for you. In that case, you should get a copy of the films and bring them to our office. Although the radiation exposure is low, you should avoid pregnancy from cycle day 8 through cycle day 20 by using barrier contraception (condom or diaphragm) with spermicidal gel. If your period was lighter than usual you should have a pregnancy test before the HSG.

We recommend taking 400mg Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, Nuprin), Anaprox, or Naprosyn one hour prior to the HSG. If you desire, we can prescribe a stronger medicine like Percocet or Lortab, but you will need to have someone drive you to and from the procedure.

**Procedure:**

1. A speculum is inserted into the vagina and the cervix cleansed with Betadine. A tenaculum (an instrument to hold the cervix) is placed on the cervix. A catheter is passed into the uterine cavity and contrast is injected. X-rays will be taken by a radiologist that will show the outline of the uterine cavity and whether or not the fallopian tubes are open. You will be discharged shortly after the HSG.
2. You will experience some discharge consisting of contrast which is clear but sticky and Betadine which is brown in color. You may also experience spotting, cramping and sometimes bleeding similar to your menses. You are not to place anything in the vagina nor have intercourse for 48 hours.

**Possible Complications:**

The HSG is a very safe procedure. There is a small chance (1/100) of infection, allergic reaction and/or bleeding, and a very small risk (1/1,000) of uterine perforation. If you note a fever, heavy bleeding, allergy symptoms or severe abdominal pain, please call us at 410-296-6400 or the answering service at 410-832-7016 if it is after hours. Percocet or Lortab may cause drowsiness, nausea or vomiting.

*Your appointment is at GBMC Radiology Department on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please arrive 30 minutes early, report to admitting to register and then go to radiology.*

Directions to GBMC: From I-695, take exit 25 (Charles Street). Proceed south for 1.5 miles, turn left into GBMC. Stay right pass the gate house. Park in the Rose Parking or Daffodil Parking. Go to the Main Entrance. Ask for Patient Registration and then go to Diagnostic Radiology which is adjacent to the Main Entrance.