



Your Hysterosalpingogram (SALP) X-ray

Radiology Department

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 59

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Your Hysterosalpingogram (SALP) X-ray

What is a Hysterosalpingogram?

It is an x-ray of your womb and fallopian tubes using a special fluid to outline these structures more clearly. It is generally known as a “salp” for short.

Are there any risks involved?

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information. The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small and is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.

Do I have to have this examination?

Your doctor has requested this examination as it is considered the most effective way of helping with diagnosis.

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Before:

Is there anything I should do?

- You must check that it has been made at an appropriate time in your menstrual cycle. The x-ray will not be carried out during your period, or for a couple of days after your period has finished. We will not undertake the examination if there is even the remotest chance of pregnancy.
- **You should therefore not have sexual intercourse between your period, and this x-ray appointment. Condoms are not considered adequate protection against pregnancy.**

On the day of your examination:

You may wish to take your own medications for pain relief, i.e. Paracetamol or Nurofen before leaving for your appointment, see note below “Does it hurt?”

During:

- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be asked for the date of your last period and asked to sign a consent form.
- You will have an internal examination – similar to the one performed in the clinic. The Doctor will introduce the special liquid into the womb through a fine tube placed in the neck of the womb. We will explain in more detail before starting the examination.

Does it hurt?

Most people who have had it done say “No”. A few say there is some discomfort like a period pain, but this is reduced if you have taken pain relief. Any discomfort you do feel should not



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last very long, but we advise that you arrange to be driven home and rest for the remainder of the day.

After:

- There are no after effects

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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