

Patient Information Leaflet

Inpatient Hysteroscopy

Produced by:
The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

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What is Hysteroscopy?

Hysteroscopy is an examination to inspect the lining of the uterus (womb) using a fine telescope.

Why is it being performed?

You may have been experiencing abnormal uterine bleeding or discharge and the hysteroscopy will help the doctor to find out why this has been happening. The procedure is normally performed in an outpatient clinic when you are awake. We are arranging for you to have the procedure whilst you are asleep because your situation means this is the best way to safely perform the procedure. This may be because of difficulty in performing the procedure when you are awake or we may suspect you have polyps or fibroids which are too large to remove when you are awake.

What does the procedure involve?

This procedure is done as a day case, under general anaesthetic, so you will be asleep. You will normally be well enough after the operation to go home the same day..

The doctor will gently dilate up the cervix enough to allow the surgeon to pass the fine telescope (hysteroscope) into the womb to look inside. The fine telescope enables the surgeon to inspect the lining of the womb. The operation only lasts 5 – 10 minutes. The doctor may then take a sample (biopsy) of tissue from the lining of the womb which will be sent for examination under the microscope. It will be possible to treat most polyps or fibroids during the procedure. If you have very large fibroids you may need to have a different procedure and this will be discussed with you after the operation.

The procedure does involve stretching the neck of the womb and saline fluid is used to give a clear view. You will feel period like pain because of the fluid and the stretching. You will be given pain killers when you are asleep and will be provided with tablets to take home with you.

Your doctor will write to you and your GP with the results of this test.

What are the possible risks of this procedure?

This is a very safe operation, which is frequently performed but you should be aware of a few small risks.

- There is a small risk of infection for which you may be required to take antibiotics.
- There is a 1 in 100 chance of perforation of the womb (making a hole in the womb). This is not serious but if a perforation is suspected you may require a laparoscopy. This is an examination of the abdomen with a similar telescope through a cut in your umbilicus (belly button). This would be performed under general anaesthetic.
- Rarely a perforation of the womb is followed by damage to another organ such as the bladder or the bowel, if this occurs you would need a more major operation (a laparotomy – an incision into the abdomen) to repair the damage. You would have to be admitted to hospital for a few days.

Following surgery

You may experience some vaginal bleeding, you may also notice a brown discharge. This may last for up to a week. To reduce any risk of infection, it is best to avoid sexual intercourse and the use of tampons until this discharge stops.

If your bleeding becomes heavy or smells offensive, please contact your GP.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call the NHS 111 service on: 111

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 03000 61 61 61 or at enquires@cqc.org.uk

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: Freephone 0800 169 0 169 to talk to the NHS Smoking Helpline.

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