

# ASCENSION ST VINCENTS

## HYSTEOSALPHINGOGRAM (HSG) PATIENT HANDOUT

### **Radiologist who performed your procedure:**

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### **Procedure Description:**

- An image-guided hysterosalpingogram (HSG) is performed to evaluate the uterus and fallopian tubes, most commonly as part of an infertility evaluation, to assess the uterine cavity, or to confirm successful occlusion of the fallopian tubes.
- During the procedure, a radiologist uses X-ray imaging to visualize the uterus and determine whether the fallopian tubes are open. You will lie on an exam table, and a speculum is gently placed in the vagina, similar to a pelvic exam. The cervix is cleaned with antiseptic, and a small catheter is placed through the cervix into the uterus. Contrast material is slowly injected through the catheter. X-ray images are obtained as the contrast fills the uterus and flows through the fallopian tubes, allowing the radiologist to evaluate their shape and openness. The catheter is then removed, and a pad may be provided for mild contrast leakage afterward.
- The procedure usually takes 15–30 minutes.

### **Benefits:**

- Helps evaluate the shape of the uterus and determine whether the fallopian tubes are open.
- Provides important information for infertility evaluation and treatment planning.
- Can confirm successful occlusion of the fallopian tubes when applicable.
- Imaging allows the radiologist to precisely visualize the uterus and tubes.
- Minimally invasive procedure that does not require surgery.
- Usually completed quickly, with most patients returning home shortly afterward.

### **Risks & Potential Complications:**

- The following list includes some, but not all, possible complications.
- Cramping or pelvic discomfort during or after the procedure is common and usually temporary.
- Light vaginal spotting or contrast leakage can occur.
- Infection of the uterus or fallopian tubes can occur but is uncommon.
- Injury to the cervix or uterus can occur but is uncommon.
- Serious complications such as significant infection or uterine injury can occur but are rare.
- Radiation exposure occurs but is kept as low as reasonably achievable.
- Feeling faint or lightheaded (a vasovagal reaction) can occur during or after the procedure. This is usually mild and resolves quickly.
- Allergic reaction to the contrast material is uncommon.

### **Alternatives:**

- Pelvic ultrasound or saline infusion sonohysterography (SIS) to evaluate the uterus.
- MRI of the pelvis in select cases.
- Laparoscopy with chromotubation to directly evaluate the fallopian tubes, which is more invasive.
- Clinical observation or medical management, depending on the clinical situation.
- Some patients choose no further evaluation; however, this carries the risk of delayed diagnosis and is generally not recommended.

### **Aftercare:**

- It is normal to experience mild cramping or pelvic discomfort after the procedure. This usually improves within a few hours.
- You may have a small amount of vaginal spotting or contrast leakage. A sanitary pad may be used. Avoid tampons for 24 hours.
- You may shower after the procedure; however, avoid tub baths, hot tubs, swimming pools, or vaginal intercourse for 24 hours.
- You may return to normal activities the same day unless otherwise instructed.
- It is normal to experience mild pain after your procedure. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for relief.
- Contact Radiology or your ordering provider if you have any concerns or experience any of the following: worsening or severe pelvic or abdominal pain; heavy vaginal bleeding (soaking more than one pad per hour); fever or chills; foul-smelling vaginal discharge; increasing redness, swelling, or tenderness in the pelvic area; or dizziness, lightheadedness, or fainting. Call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- Weekdays 8 am to 5 pm call 308-8401 (Riverside), 296-3886 (Southside), 602-1360 (Clay) or 691-1297 (St Johns). Weekdays 5 pm to 10 pm or weekends 6 am to 10 pm call 308-8401. If outside of these hours, call the hospital operator at 308-7300 and ask to speak to the Interventional Radiologist on call.

### **How Do I Receive Procedure Results?**

- Your provider usually receives the exam results within 1–2 business days.
- Please contact your ordering provider's office to obtain results and for follow-up instructions.