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HyCoSy

WHAT IS HyCoSy?

This is an ultrasound-based test for tubal function. A special solution which when mixed creates microbubbles of air is injected through the cervix into the uterine cavity. The fluid / air mix can be seen using either transabdominal or transvaginal ultrasound as a sudden flash as it passes through that portion of the fallopian tube. The test involves no anaesthetic or radiation.

It requires a high level of operator skill and interpretation. Usually the images obtained only detail part of the female genital tract and so they are difficult to interpret by another specialist who may wish to repeat the study themselves. Because of the transient nature of the images it is usually regarded as a screening test rather than a definitive test for fallopian tube patency. Attempts to use saline or water rather than the specialised solution have met with variable success (its cheaper but less accurate).

HOW IS IT PERFORMED?

It is usually performed in the first half of the menstrual cycle but can be performed at any time if pregnancy is not expected. It begins with a transvaginal scan. After this a catheter is placed through the cervix into the uterine cavity and fluid inserted which helps outline the cavity and the tubes. The scan is continued whilst the fluid is injected.

You should take ibuprofen 400mg 2 hours before the procedure. This reduces the occurrence of womb spasm and also reduces discomfort during the procedure. If you cannot take ibuprofen then take 2 paracetamol tablets instead

RISKS

This is a very safe procedure. The main risk is infection and this is rare. It usually occurs in women that have fallopian tube damage. If you do get fever 1-2 days after the procedure then you should call the doctor.

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