#### Women & Infants **Obstetrics and Gynecology Care Center** (401) 274-1122, ext. 42735

# Hysteroscopic Surgery

Hysteroscopy is a procedure that allows your doctor to look inside your uterus. It is done using a hysteroscope, a thin, lighted camera that is inserted into the vagina through the cervix to examine the inside of the uterus.

#### Hysteroscopy can be performed for different reasons including:

- To diagnose problems of the uterus.
- To correct structural problems such as fibroids, polyps, adhesions or septa.
- To evaluate the cause of abnormal bleeding.

# **Before the procedure**

- **Do not** eat anything after 12 midnight the night before your procedure.
- You must have transportation to and from the hospital.
- You should bring a form of identification and your insurance card to the hospital.
- All jewelry should be left at home.

### **Procedure**

- The anesthesiologist will meet with you before your procedure to go over the plan for anesthesia. They may give you medicine to help you relax before the surgery.
- You will be asleep during the procedure.
- The procedure is done through your vagina. Only under very rare instances would we need to perform abdominal surgery.

# **Risks and complications**

Although hysteroscopy is safe, there are potential complications with any procedure. Specifically there is a rare chance of:

Infection.

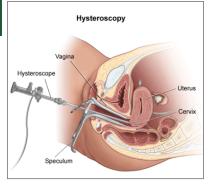
- Bleeding.
- Tearing of the uterine wall.
- Damage to internal organs.
- Scarring of the uterus.
- Fluid overload.
- Problems with anesthesia (the medication that prevents pain during the procedure).

# After the procedure

- After the procedure, you will spend a few hours in the recovery area. You may feel drowsy or nauseated from the anesthesia.
- Patients generally recover quickly and are able to go home the same day.
- You may have cramps and bleeding for 24 hours after the procedure. This is normal.
- Do not douche or use tampons until your health care provider says it is OK.
- Do not use any vaginal medicines until you are told it is OK.
- Ask your health care provider when it is OK to have sex again.

# When to call your doctor

- Heavy bleeding (more than one pad an hour for two or more hours).
- A fever above 100.4°F (38.0°C).
- · Increased abdominal pain or tenderness.
- Foul-smelling vaginal discharge.



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