

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.

