

Tubal Patency Study / Lipiodol Flush

Patient Information Sheet

Your doctor has recommended you have a Tubal Patency Study and/or a Lipiodol Flush. This information has been developed to help you prepare for and better understand these procedures.

What is a Tubal Patency Study?

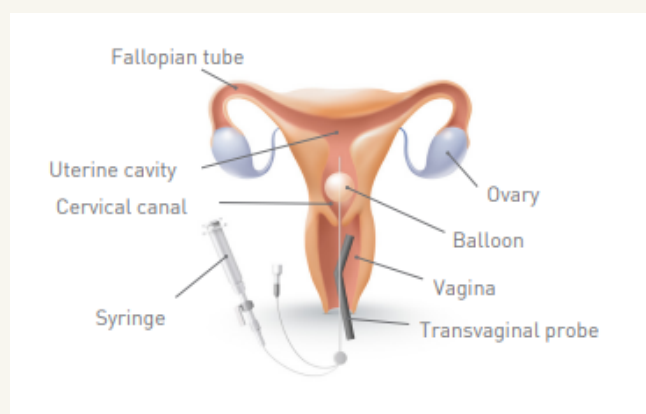
It is an ultrasound procedure which checks whether your fallopian tubes are 'open' or 'blocked'. This low risk procedure is performed in an ultrasound room and is designed to check the uterine cavity and your tubes. It will also direct the type of treatment that is required if you are having trouble falling pregnant.

Your doctor may call a Tubal Patency Study a 'HyCoSy'. This stands for Hysterosalpingo-Contrast-Sonography.

How is a Tubal Patency Study performed?

It starts with a normal ultrasound (using a vaginal probe) to assess your uterus, ovaries and pelvis. This is followed by a doctor gently inserting a small tube into your uterus. Although the tube is very small (around 1mm width) it is possible to get some cramping / period-like pain during the insertion. For this reason we ask patients to take an anti-inflammatory tablet (such as ibuprofen) 1 hour before the procedure. If you have been told not to take anti-inflammatory tablets (for example you have an allergy, gastric oesophageal reflux or asthma which reacts to this type of medication) please take 2 tablets of paracetamol instead.

Ultrasound contrast is then injected through the tube into your uterus. Using ultrasound, the contrast is followed to check for flow through the fallopian tubes to determine if they are 'open' or 'blocked'.



When can a Tubal Patency Study be performed?

A tubal patency test can only be performed on a patient who is not pregnant. The patency test needs to be conducted after the menstrual period but prior to ovulation to ensure no pregnancy has just occurred. Our reception staff will assist you to ensure the test is booked at the most appropriate time in the menstrual cycle. This will typically be between day 6 and day 11 of a 28 day cycle. You must abstain from intercourse from the start of the period (day 1) until after the test is performed. Since the test is performed through the vagina, it may not be suitable for a patient who has not previously been sexually active. The appropriateness of the test should be discussed with the referring doctor if there are any concerns.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take?

The procedure takes about 45 minutes. This includes the pre-procedure ultrasound of the pelvis and the tubal patency test.

Does the procedure cause discomfort?

Although there may be slight discomfort during the procedure this usually resolves very quickly. Rarely patients can experience some pain if tubal spasm occurs.

Can I still try to fall pregnant in the same cycle in which I have had the procedure?

Yes. It is completely safe to still try for a pregnancy in the same cycle after you have had your Tubal Patency Study. However you must not be pregnant at the time of the Tubal Patency Study.

What is a Lipiodol Flush?

Your doctor may request for a Lipiodol Flush to be performed at the end of your Tubal Patency Study.

Lipiodol contains poppy seed oil, which may improve your chances of implantation.

Who is suitable for a Lipiodol Flush?

You cannot have Lipiodol if you are allergic to iodine or your fallopian tubes are blocked. There is a small additional risk of an allergic reaction.

What occurs on the day of the Tubal Patency Study and/or Lipiodol Flush procedure?

These procedures can cause some period like cramping and abdominal discomfort however this usually resolves very quickly after the procedure.

If you are able to take anti-inflammatory tablets please take 2 x 200mg ibuprofen tablets (for example Nurofen, Advil, Motrin or Brufen) 1 hour before your scheduled appointment. If you cannot take anti-inflammatory tablets please take 2 x 500mg paracetamol tablets instead.

You are not required to have a full bladder for either of these procedures.

Rare Complications

A rare complication to a tubal patency test is tubal spasm which may cause pelvic pain. This will resolve with analgesia. Another rare complication is cervical shock which is the body's response to having a tube or instrument introduced into the cervix. This can result in low blood pressure, feeling light headed and unwell. Should a complication arise, our doctors will manage your individual situation.

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Post Procedure Information

You may drive yourself home and return to normal activities following your procedure today. However if feeling unwell have someone drive you home and rest.

You will need to wear a pad as you may experience some vaginal loss of fluid for the next few hours. Vaginal discharge may be intermittent for the next 7 -10 days. Loss could be bright red, light pink or brown in colour. Flow could range from spotting to light flow.

Please do not use a tampon.

Occasionally a tubal patency study may stimulate a period - this is normal.

You may experience mild cramping for a couple of days after the procedure. Panadol, Panadeine or Nurofen can be used for discomfort as per manufacturer's directions if you are not allergic to them. Please discuss with the doctor if another alternative is required.

Infection following a tubal patency study is very rare, however, please contact your referring doctor if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms;

- General feeling of un-wellness continuing 3 days post procedure
- Abdominal pain after 3 days
- Offensive smelling vaginal discharge
- High temperature greater than 38°C