

Echovist test of Fallopian Tube patency

Please read this carefully beforehand.

If you are having problems getting pregnant (conceiving) it is important to check if the Fallopian tubes are open (patent) so that the egg and the sperm can meet.

There are three common ways to do this.

1. Laparoscopy remains the most accurate but involves a general anaesthetic and has some very rare but potentially dangerous complications. It usually involves a couple of days off work too.

2. Hysterosalpingography (HSG) does not involve an operation or an anaesthetic but it does expose you to X-rays and it cannot examine the ovaries.

3. Echovist hystero-contrast-salpingography (HyCoSy).

This is an ultrasound procedure (no X-rays) which does not involve an anaesthetic so you can eat and drink beforehand as you would normally. It also means that you and your partner can see the womb and the ovaries on the ultrasound television screen for yourselves and will be told the result immediately.

It is a good test for women who are having difficulty getting pregnant but do not have any past history to suggest that their Fallopian tubes might be damaged (for example through past pelvic infection or an ectopic pregnancy).

The Echovist HyCoSy technique

The procedure will be explained to you fully when you come and feel free to ask any questions.

You may want take the afternoon off work but many women return to work immediately and most can drive home on their own.

It is important that there is no chance that you might be pregnant so the procedure is usually performed within 10 days of the start of your last period.

At the start of your next period, please phone the GCRM on: **0141-891-8749**. Give your details (as printed on your patient identification sticky label) and we will give you an appointment to come for the Echovist test. Please write these down in the space provided below and bring this leaflet with you.

Although you are within 10 days of the start of your period, we do advise that you also perform a pregnancy test on the day of the Echovist.

Please take 2 ibuprofen (Nurofen) tablets, or similar painkillers, an hour before the procedure is scheduled.

A vaginal ultrasound is performed and you will be shown the womb and the ovaries and we will take some measurements.

Then a speculum is put in the vagina (like having a cervical smear done), the neck of the womb (cervix) is cleaned and a small tube (catheter) is threaded in to the womb. A small

balloon is inflated to keep the catheter in place. This can cause some period-like pain (dysmenorrhoea) but the painkillers taken beforehand help to reduce this discomfort.

The dye is injected through the catheter and you will see it go in to the womb and, if the Fallopian tubes are patent, spill out near the ovaries.

Dr. Marco Gaudoin
Medical Director, GCRM

Name:

Date of birth:

Place of procedure: Glasgow Centre for Reproductive Medicine

Date of procedure:

Time of procedure: