

Sonohysterogram



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What is a Sonohysterogram?

Ultrasound imaging or sonography uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. Ultrasound images are captured in real-time so they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels. It is used to get a detailed view of the endometrium (lining) of the uterus. It can be used to pinpoint areas of concern.

CPT Code

76831
(58340 catheterization and saline not needed for order)

Indications

abnormal uterine bleeding, fibroids, abnormal or irregular endometrium on a prior ultrasound, or polyps or polyp fragments with an endometrial biopsy

Contraindications

heavy bleeding, pregnancy

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Your patient should wear a loose fitting two-piece outfit. Timing of the exam is critical. In most cases, it should be performed 4 to 8 days after the start of menses. She may take 600 mg of ibuprofen one half hour prior to the exam.

What Happens During the Test?

Our technologist will obtain a detailed medical history. Your patient will be asked to disrobe from the waist down and will be provided a gown or blanket. She is positioned lying face-up on an examination table. The radiologist uses a speculum to access the cervix. The cervix is sterilized with antiseptic soap.

A flexible plastic catheter is passed through the opening of the cervix. The speculum is then removed and a vaginal ultrasound camera/probe is inserted into her vagina.

Sterile saline is injected into the uterus, enlarging the uterine cavity. The saline outlines the lining and allows for easy visualization and measurement. After several pictures are obtained, the probe is removed. Your patient may experience cramping similar to those experienced during menses. Following the exam, saline will be expelled when she resumes a sitting position.

The exam takes approximately 60 minutes to complete.

After the Test

After the exam, the radiologist will discuss the results with your patient. Patient may experience cramping, spotting and a watery discharge for 24-48 hours following the exam.

No intercourse or tampon use is recommended for 48 hours following the procedure.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.