



Hysteroscopy and D&C

Hysteroscopy

A hysteroscopy is a way for your doctor to look at the lining of your uterus. She uses a thin viewing tool called a hysteroscope. The tip of the hysteroscope is put into your vagina and gently moved through the cervix into the uterus. The hysteroscope has a light and camera hooked to it so your doctor can see the lining (endometrium) on a video screen.

A hysteroscopy may be done to find the cause of abnormal bleeding or bleeding that occurs after a woman has passed menopause. It also may be done to see if a problem in your uterus is preventing you from becoming pregnant (infertility). A hysteroscopy can be used to remove growths in the uterus, such as fibroids or polyps.

Your doctor may take a small sample of tissue (biopsy). The sample is looked at under a microscope for problems.

A hysteroscopy may be done to:

- Find the cause of abnormal bleeding. Your doctor can pass heated tools through the hysteroscope to stop the bleeding.
- Find the cause of bleeding after menopause.
- See whether a problem in the shape or size of the uterus or if scar tissue in the uterus is the cause of infertility.
- Look at the uterine openings to the fallopian tubes. If the tubes are blocked, your doctor may be able to open the tubes with special tools passed through the hysteroscope.
- Find the possible cause of repeated miscarriages. Other tests may also be done.
- Find and reposition a misplaced intrauterine device (IUD).
- Find and remove small fibroids or polyps.
- Use heated tools to remove problem areas in the lining of the uterus (endometrial ablation).
- Place a contraceptive implant (Essure) into the opening of the fallopian tubes as a method of permanent sterilization.

It is best to have a hysteroscopy done when you are not having your menstrual period. If there is a chance that you could become pregnant, the hysteroscopy should be done before you are ovulating so your doctor is sure you are not pregnant.

Do not douche, use tampons, or use vaginal medicines for 24 hours before the hysteroscopy.

For more information: go to our surgeries and procedures section under patient education.

D&C

Dilation and curettage (D&C) is a surgical procedure used to locate and treat the cause of sudden, heavy bleeding or evaluation of an abnormal uterine cavity by sonogram. It is done by passing a small instrument called a curette through the vagina into the uterus and scraping the endometrium. The recovery period following D&C is short, and most women are able to return to normal activities within 1 to 2 days.

For more information: go to our surgeries and procedures section under patient education.