

BEFORE FLUID INJECTION

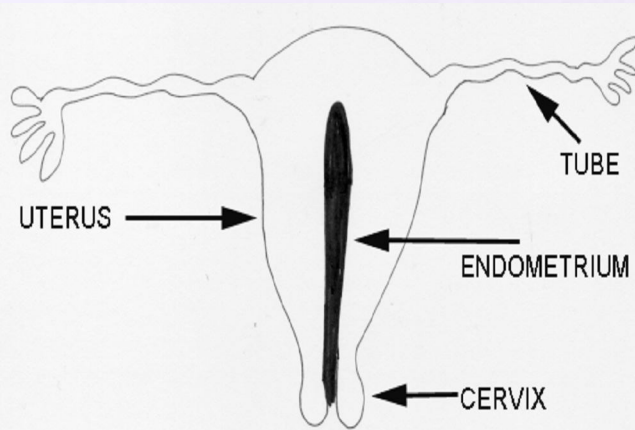


Figure 1. Walls of uterine cavity are opposed. There is no evidence of a lesion.

AFTER FLUID INJECTION

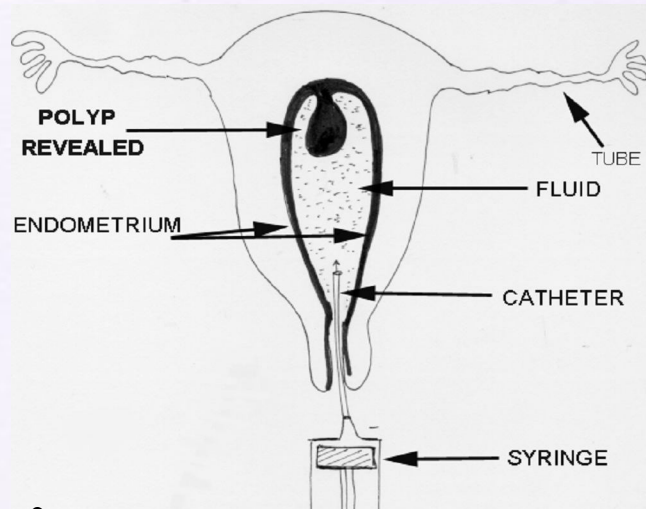


Figure 2. Fluid is injected into the uterine cavity. The walls of the cavity are separated and a small fleshy benign grape like structure (polyp) is revealed.

OBSTETRIC & GYNAECOLOGICAL ULTRASOUND

Saline Instillation of the Uterine Cavity

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What is SIS?

Saline instillation sonohysterography (SIS) refers to a test, where a salt solution is injected into the uterus (womb). The procedure improves visualisation of the lining and walls of the uterus and helps to identify lesions ('lumps & bumps') within the cavity of the uterus .

How is it performed?

Very similar to a pap smear, a speculum is introduced into the vagina and the cervix (neck of the womb) identified. A fine soft plastic catheter is gently guided through the cervix into the cavity of the uterus and fluid injected. The ultrasound probe is then placed into the vagina and the watery like solution now within the uterine cavity outlines any lesions within the uterus.

Is SIS painful?

No. For most patients the discomfort experienced is no more than that experienced at a routine pap smear. Occasionally patients may experience crampy period like pains and very rarely light-headedness.

What preparations do I need to take?

There is no special preparation required for the test. On the day of the test the reception staff will ask you to empty your bladder prior to the scan. Please remove any tampons and inform staff if you have had recent vaginal tenderness or soreness. Please refer to the transvaginal ultrasound information leaflet.

What should I expect after the test?

Once the catheter and speculum are removed you will feel a small trickle of fluid from the vagina. A watery discharge which is frequently blood stained will continue over the next 24 hours. The nursing staff will give you a protective pad to wear following the procedure.

What does the test show?

As fluid is injected you will be shown on a monitor above the couch. You will be able to see the lining of the uterus (endometrium) highlighted against the background of fluid as the cavity expands. If there are any lesions or lumps they will be pointed out to you at the time of the scan.

What are the risks of the test?

The risks of the procedure are few. In some cases it is not possible to guide the soft plastic catheter through the cervix into the uterine cavity. In these circumstances it may be necessary to arrange a curette (D&C or dilatation and curettage) as a day case procedure. The specialist will explain in more detail. Infection is a remote risk. If you have had recent pelvic infection or are being investigated at the time of the procedure for infection please inform the staff or specialist prior to the procedure.

ULTRASOUND OF UTERUS SHOWING A POLYP INSIDE THE UTERUS

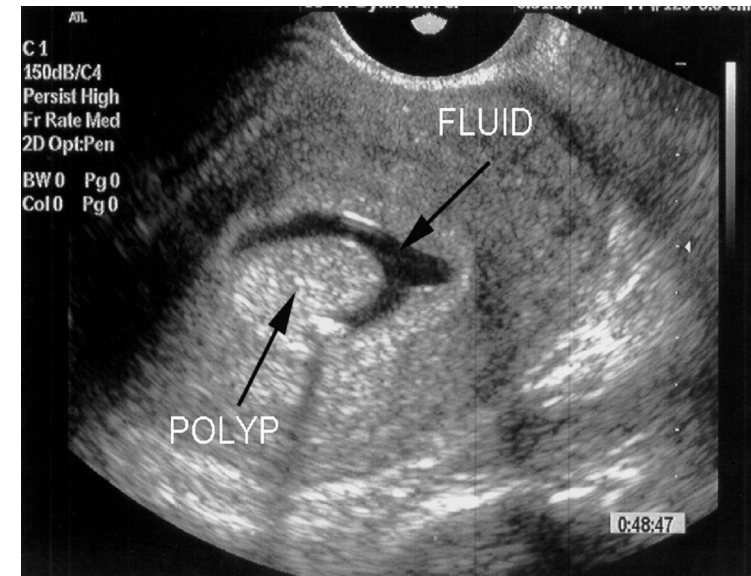


Figure 1. The arrows point to the injected fluid and the highlighted polyp within the cavity of the uterus. Polyps are benign and a common cause for irregular vaginal bleeding.

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