

Are there any risks or complications?

The procedure might not work, depending on where the blockage is and what is causing the block.

Other possible complications include:

- Infection (very rare but easily treated with antibiotics)
- The wire accidentally making a hole in the fallopian tube (very rare)

Recanalization is normally very safe and could result in you being able to get pregnant.

When to get help

See your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills
- Heavy bleeding (more than your normal menstrual period)
- Bleeding that goes on longer than your normal menstrual period
- Abdominal pain or cramping that does not go away
- Bad smelling fluid or mucous (yellow or green coloured) coming from your vagina

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital 604-851-4866
Medical Imaging 2nd Floor, Fraser Wing
32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford

Lions Gate Hospital 604-984-5775
Medical Imaging, Lower Level
231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver

Royal Columbian Hospital 604-520-4640
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

UBC Hospital 604-822-7076
Medical Imaging, Main Floor
2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver

HealthLinkBC

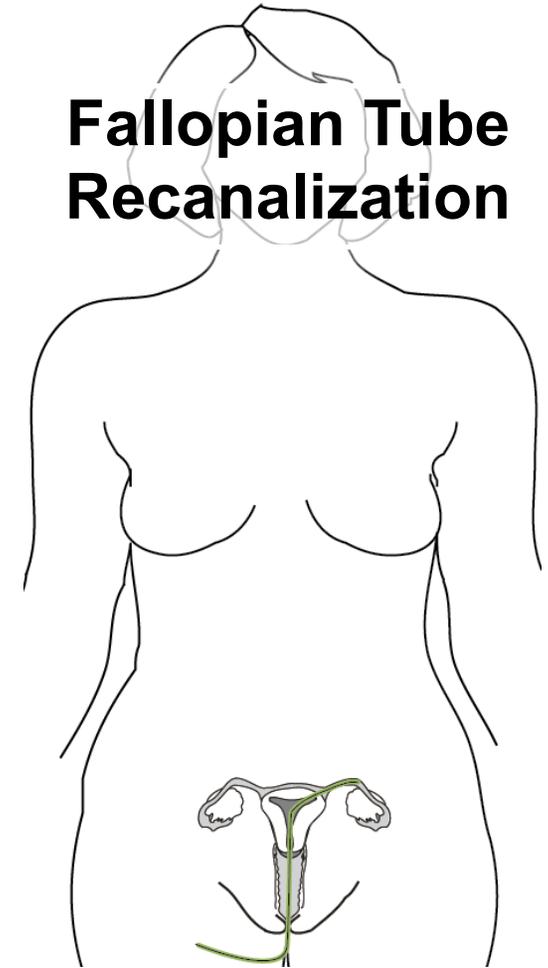
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Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.



Fallopian Tube Recanalization



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

- Make an appointment to see your gynecologist.

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www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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What is a Fallopian Tube Recanalization?

Normally, eggs produced by the ovaries, pass down fine, narrow tubes called the fallopian tubes, to reach the uterus. If either or both of these tubes are blocked, the chances of becoming pregnant are reduced.

Sometimes the block is only a plug of mucus. The tube can be flushed out by passing a tiny, flexible tube, called a catheter, through the neck of the womb (uterus) and up into the fallopian tube.

Recanalization is the medical term for reopening the blocked fallopian tube.

This procedure is only done when you are in the first part of your menstrual cycle, once your period has stopped. If you have irregular periods, it is best to talk about the timing of the procedure with your doctor and the medical imaging department.

Who does the Fallopian Tube Recanalization?

It is done by an interventional radiologist (a doctor who specializes in using x-ray, ultrasound, and fluoroscopy imaging to guide diagnosis and treatment).

You must arrange for a 'responsible adult' to drive you home when leaving the hospital.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

How long will it take?

The procedure usually takes about 1 to 2 hours. Everyone is different. We cannot predict exactly how long your procedure will take.

Alert

Let us know if:

- You have any allergies.
- You have reacted to x-ray dye in the past.

Does it hurt?

You might feel some discomfort in the pelvis and low back, similar to menstrual period discomfort.

What happens during the procedure?

- We start an intravenous in your arm so we can give pain and other medicines during the procedure.
- We might give you a suppository that is a long-acting anti-inflammatory medicine.
- The radiologist might begin by doing an internal examination.
- The radiologist inserts a speculum into your vagina.
- The radiologist guides the tiny, flexible catheter through your cervix into the uterus.
- A thin wire is threaded through the catheter and guided into the fallopian tube to clear the blockage.
- Once cleared, the wire and catheter are removed.

What happens afterwards?

We move you to our recovery area. You stay in bed for at least 1 hour.

Care at home

Do not have sexual intercourse for at least 24 hours after the procedure.

Most women have a little spotting for a day or two afterwards. Use pads rather than tampons. You can return to using tampons when you get your next menstrual period.