

HYSTEROSCOPY

Hysteroscopy is a surgical procedure performed by your gynecologist to permit direct visualization of the uterus (womb) cavity using a long, thin lighted telescope inserted through the vagina (birth canal) and cervix (neck of the womb). Hysteroscopy is used as a diagnostic tool, an operative device, or both, depending on the specific condition.

Diagnostic hysteroscopy can be thought of as a way of “seeing” the inside of the uterine cavity. During diagnostic hysteroscopy, your gynecologist will be examining the lining of the uterus, looking for polyps, fibroids, scar tissue/scar bands, and abnormal partitions. Operative hysteroscopy can be thought of as *operating* while “seeing” with the hysteroscope. In many cases, with the use of operative hysteroscopy, your gynecologist will be able to surgically treat or remove many of the abnormalities seen with diagnostic hysteroscopy. Hysteroscopy can also be used as a method to collect a sample of tissue (biopsy) for examination or to remove an object, such as an intrauterine device (IUD).

Diagnostic hysteroscopy and straightforward operative hysteroscopy are often done in your doctor’s office. More complicated operative hysteroscopy is performed in an operating room setting.