

**DEFINITION**

1. Hydrosalpinx is a distension of the fallopian tubes with water fluid. The condition arises as a result of the sealing of the fimbrial end of the tube, the tubal epithelium elsewhere remaining intact. The natural secretions cannot escape and the tube gradually distends with the watery fluid.
2. An extraordinary feature of a hydrosalpinx is that the inner end of the tube is nearly always open and yet the fluid does not drain into the uterus. This feature enables the diagnosis to be made by hysterosalpingography.

**CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS**

3. Hydrosalpinx is often asymptomatic and commonly diagnosed during infertility investigations. The outlook as far as fertility is concerned is unfavourable, for although the endothelium is able to secrete it is functionally impaired.
4. There may be a history and symptoms of acute, subacute or chronic salpingo-oophoritis.
5. An uncomplicated hydrosalpinx is usually too soft and flaccid to be palpable on bimanual examination.

**AETIOLOGY**

6. Hydrosalpinx may be the end result of salpingitis. When the inflammation of the fallopian tubes subsides it may leave the fimbrial end of the tube sealed.
7. The following organisms have been identified as causing salpingitis - gonococcus, streptococcus, staphylococcus and escherichia coli. The fallopian tubes may become involved as part of infection by tuberculosis, actinomycosis, schistosomiasis or chlamydia trachomatis.
8. Often when a hydrosalpinx is found there is no history of a severe previous infection or salpingitis sufficient to cause symptoms. Nevertheless, the most likely cause of this condition is a gonococcal infection whose after effects are limited to the ampullary area of the tube, one which produced few or no clinical manifestations when it happened.
9. Other possible backgrounds when there is no history of previous disease, are previously unrecognised subclinical infections related to chlamydia and other organisms, perhaps even including gonococcal or tubercular infections.
10. The fimbrial end of the fallopian tube may become sealed by tumours of the tube. These include adenomatoid tumour, polyps, choriocarcinoma, sarcoma, carcinoma and secondary tumours.

## **CONCLUSION**

11. Hydrosalpinx is a condition which the fallopian tubes are distended with watery fluid. It is caused by sealing of the fimbrial end of the tube, usually by infection, or sometimes by tumours.

## **REFERENCE**

Tindall V R. Jeffcote's Principles of Gynaecology. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1987. Butterworths. p329-330.

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