



## **Hydrosalpinx**

Hydrosalpinx means water in the fallopian tube. This occurs if the distal end of the tube is obstructed (fimbrial obstruction). The most common cause of tubal obstruction is previous infection due to gonorrhea or chlamydia. Tubal obstruction can be the result of previous appendicitis, peritonitis, endometriosis, pelvic tuberculosis or prior pelvic surgery.

After the tube is obstructed, fluid collects and distends the tube causing damage to the tube. Dilation of the tube causing damage to the cilia within the tubal lumen. Cilia are hair like structures within the tube that move the egg and embryo down the tube into the uterus. The greater the loss of cilia, the greater the degree of infertility and chance of an ectopic pregnancy within that tube.

Patients with hydrosalpinx who desire pregnancy have the option of IVF or surgery to repair the tubes. The highest pregnancy rates occur in women having I.V.F. (In Vitro Fertilization). Prior to IVF, the abnormal tubes should be removed or occluded to prevent backflow of fluid into the uterus. This improves the success of the IVF cycles. Surgical treatment of hydrosalpinx is by using microsurgical techniques via laparoscopy. The rate of ectopic pregnancy after tubal surgery is 5-10%.