

After the test

After all the pictures have been taken, your child may be cleaned with washcloths and towels. There is a private restroom in the X-ray room for you to use for redressing.

Your child may return to normal daily activities.

It is important to drink extra fluids to lessen the burning during urination following the procedure.

The test results will be called to your child's doctor.

Reference:
Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Cox South
3801 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807

Child Life Department
417/269-6784

Voiding Cystourethrogram

VCUG



What is a voiding cystourethrogram?

A voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) is a test that uses X-rays to take pictures of the urinary system. **It shows how well the bladder and its connecting tubes (the urethra and the ureters) are working.**

Before the test

Discuss with your doctor any previous difficult catheterizations or VCUGs.

Before coming to the hospital, explain to your child what will happen in words they can understand. For younger children, it is best to explain right before the test. Sometimes, it is difficult to know how to explain this test to children. **If you would like help, please call a child life specialist at 417/269-6784.**

You and your child may ask any questions at any time before, during or after the test.

You are encouraged to stay with your child during the test. Children are usually more cooperative and less apprehensive when a loved one is with them. You will wear a lead apron for your protection. However, if you are pregnant, you will have to wait outside the room.

Please bring comfort items, such as a bottle, blanket, pacifier, stuffed animal, book or favorite toy for your child to have during the test.

It is recommended that siblings stay with another caregiver, so that you can focus on the child that is having the test.

There are no shots or needles involved in this test.

This test usually lasts about 1 hour.

It is possible that an ultrasound will be required before the VCUG.

In extenuating circumstances, sedation medication may be used for this test.

During the test

Your child will change into a hospital gown and then lie on a special X-ray table. A pillow will be used for comfort. Your child's privacy will be maintained through the use of sheets or towels.

Distraction methods are used for this exam to ease a child's anxiety. The room is child friendly and videos can be projected on the ceiling.

A nurse or technologist will clean the opening where your child's urine comes out, "numbing jelly" is applied and then they slide a small, thin, soft tube (catheter)

into your child's bladder through that opening. The catheter will be secured with a piece of tape.

Your child will need to lie still while the catheter is placed and during the X-ray pictures. It is often difficult for young children to hold still for this procedure. Our staff will assist and support your child in holding still.

A large camera will be placed above you child, in order to take pictures. This camera is able to move forwards and backwards. The camera may come close to your child, but will never touch your child.

While your child is lying on the table, an X-ray technologist or doctor (radiologist) will be taking pictures.

A special clear liquid called contrast will be used to fill your child's bladder through the catheter. This "special water" can be seen on the X-ray pictures.

When your child's bladder is full, they will urinate, into a container or towels. Pictures will still be taken on the X-ray table during this time.

As your child urinates, the tape and catheter will be removed.

You may stay close to your child during the entire procedure. Holding hands and talking often provides comfort.