

Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)

“BLADDER X-RAY”

What is it?

A VCUG is an x-ray procedure that is done to evaluate children with urinary tract symptoms. These symptoms may include bladder infections or daytime wetting in children beyond toilet training age. The test takes approximately one hour to complete.

No special preparation is required prior to the procedure. If it is non-sedated, your child may eat or drink prior to the test. If it is sedated, your child should not consume any solid foods after midnight.

What to expect during the procedure:

Your child will be asked to undress from the waist down. A special catheter (plastic tube) will be inserted into the bladder. Contrast material that looks like water is drained from a bottle into the bladder. X-rays are taken at several intervals during this time. After the bladder is full, the catheter is removed and the child is asked to urinate while lying on the table. X-rays are taken while the child urinates.

What to expect after the procedure:

It is normal to experience some discomfort with urination for two to three days after catheterization. This will improve as the child continues to urinate. A small amount of blood in the urine is also normal. Drinking water to dilute the urine can be helpful. If your child does not urinate for six to eight hours, try sitting him/her in a tub of warm water to encourage emptying.

There is a chance of developing a urinary tract infection after catheterization. If your child complains of pain or has blood in the urine for more than 48 hours, and/or develops a fever, a urine culture should be obtained through the pediatrician. If the culture is positive, your child should be treated with the appropriate antibiotic.

*** This test should be rescheduled if you suspect your child has a urinary tract infection.

