

# Information for parents of children undergoing a Micturating Cystourethrogram

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## What is a micturating cystourethrogram?

A micturating cystourethrogram (MCUG) is a special type of X-ray test that looks at the bladder, which stores urine, and the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. It is used to diagnose why your child may be having urinary tract infections. It is also used to show up any abnormalities with your child's urinary system.

## How is my child prepared for the test?

Your child will need to have a three-day course of antibiotics, from the day before the scan until and including the day after the scan. This is because inserting the catheter into the bladder can increase the risk of a urinary tract infection, and the antibiotics may help to prevent this.

If your child is **not currently** taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, they will need to take an antibiotic (trimethoprim) twice a day for three days. Please make an appointment with your GP a week before the scan appointment to organise this.

If your child is **currently** taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, you will need to give double the dose for the three days, either in one single larger dose or give an extra dose in the morning or evening.

## The day of the test

The MCUG takes place in the Medical Imaging department. It is performed by a Radiologist (a doctor specialising in imaging tests) and a radiographer who will take the pictures. You are welcome to be with your child during the test although if you are pregnant you will have to stand behind a protective screen. Your child will be able to see and hear you from there. The radiographer taking the pictures will explain that there is a slight risk to you and your child of receiving a small dose of radiation. They will answer any questions you may have.

## What happens during a micturating cystourethrogram?

- Your child lies on the table. His or her genital area is cleaned and covered with towels.
- A catheter is placed by the doctor through the opening where your baby or child passes urine and into the bladder. He or she may feel uncomfortable, but this should not hurt.
- The doctor may then test the urine to look for signs of a current urine infection.
- A small amount of contrast dye is put through the catheter into the bladder.
- A machine directs x-rays at different angles into the bladder while your child's bladder fills and empties. The images can be seen on a screen.

- The flow of urine can be seen because of the contrast dye. The images show whether and where urine is being blocked, and whether urine passes back up towards the kidneys.
- Your child may need to change positions, so your doctor can get different views.

## What to expect afterwards

Your child can usually go home straight away after the test. Contact your doctor if your child has:

- Blood in his or her urine for more than two days – the urine may look red (like blackcurrant squash) or brown (like a cola drink).
- Pain in the lower part of his or her tummy.
- Signs of a urinary tract infection – such as a fever (temperature over 38°C), being sick, feeling tired or irritable, having pain or a stinging/burning feeling when passing urine, going to the toilet more often than usual or holding on because it is painful to go, or wetting the bed or themselves more often than usual.

## Finally...

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

## Contact us

If you found reading your leaflet difficult, you do not understand what it means for you, if you have any queries or concerns you can contact us on: **01392 402336** and we can talk it through, or contact your consultant paediatrician

## How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to the Medical Imaging Department" leaflet and use the Trusts website for the latest information:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/our-sites](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/our-sites)**

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/services/medical-imaging-radiology-x-ray](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/services/medical-imaging-radiology-x-ray)**

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