

Your child is having a Micturating Cystogram (MCUG). Information for families

**A Micturating Cystogram is used to look at your urinary system (bladder & kidneys). It uses ‘contrast’, a clear liquid, which shows on x-rays. The liquid is introduced into your child through a urinary catheter. This information sheet explains what is involved and what to expect.**

When you receive your appointment letter

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please inform the department as soon as possible.

If your child is likely to need a hoist during the appointment, please telephone us so that we can make sure this is ready for you.

**Antibiotic cover**

The test requires us to insert a urinary catheter (tube) into your child’s bladder. This carries a potential risk of introducing a urinary tract infection. To try and prevent this, **your child will need to take antibiotics for the time around the test.**

If your child is already on a routine antibiotic called Trimethoprim, then you will need to do the following:

○ Day before the test: Give a **double** dose in the morning AND give a **double** dose in the evening

○ Day of the test: Give a **double** dose in the morning AND give a **double** dose in the evening

○ Day after the test: Give a **double** dose in the morning AND give a **double** dose in the evening

○ Then go back to your normal dose and carry on as normal

If your child is on a different antibiotic, or not on any course of antibiotics, please contact the clinical team **before** the test for advice.

**What to bring with you?**

It can help if your child has a favourite toy to hold to comfort them during the study. Electronic devices such as iPads are welcome.

You might want to bring some spare clothes in case any of the contrast liquid spills.

If your child self-catheterizes, please bring your bag of equipment with you.

The day of the study

Please arrive at the Radiology department at the time stated in your child’s appointment letter.

If your child’s clothes have any metal such as zips or buttons, these may need to be taken off before the study. If this is necessary, we will provide a hospital gown.

When you arrive for the test, we will check that the antibiotics have been given before starting the procedure.

The study

You are welcome to stay with your child throughout the study. Everyone staying inside the examination room will need to wear a lead coat.

Before we begin, your child will need to remove any metallic objects and wear a hospital gown. Underwear or nappies must also be removed.

Your child will lay on the x-ray bed and a urinary catheter will be inserted into the urethra (penis in boys). If your child already has a urinary catheter in place, we will use this for the scan.

The contrast liquid will pass through the tube into the bladder. Your child will feel quite full after the contrast is inserted, as if they need a wee.

We will take a series of X-rays with your child lying in different positions on the bed.

An x-ray will often be needed while your child is urinating. Babies and young children will naturally pee when the bladder is full. Older children will be given a container to wee into.

After the study

If a catheter was inserted in the department, this will be removed once the test is complete, and you will be free to go home.

A report outlining the results of the procedure will be sent to the doctor who referred your child for this test.

When you get home

Please remember to follow the post procedure antibiotic guidance stated above.

The contrast will naturally pass when your child urinates. You may notice the urine to be sticky. This is normal and should pass over the next few hours. Your child should take plenty of fluids for the next couple of days to flush the contrast out.

Are there any risks?

The contrast liquid will not interfere with any medicines your child is taking.

Your child will receive a radiation dose as part of the examination. However, each x-ray is calculated so that the best picture can be taken using the minimum amount of radiation.

Legally, we are obliged to ask anyone over the age of 12 whether there is any chance they might be pregnant. This includes parents/carers. If you are pregnant, we suggest you bring another person to be with your child during the study.

Inserting a catheter into the bladder carries a risk of introducing a urinary tract infection. The course of antibiotics you will be prescribed can reduce this risk. If your child develops a high temperature, has discomfort when peeing, or becomes unwell, please contact your family doctor (GP).

Are there any alternatives?

Other types of imaging studies, such as CT or Ultrasound can visualise the urinary system, but these tests generally cannot provide the relevant information we can get from an MCUG. This will be essential to plan your child’s treatment.

Further information and support

If you have any questions, please telephone the Radiology department on 020 7829 8615. If your child feels unwell after the test, please phone NHS 111 or attend your local Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department.

**Having a Micturating Cystogram (MCUG)**

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|  | You are coming to hospital for a scan. |
|  | If you want us to explain anything again, please ask. |
|  | Your special adult can come into the room with you.  They will need to wear a lead apron. |
|  | You may need to wear special hospital clothes. |
|  | You will lie down on a bed with your special adult standing next to you. |
|  | A tube will be inserted into the hole you wee out of.  Then we will insert some liquid which will travel to your bladder.  This liquid will show on your X-ray pictures. |
|  | We need you to stay very still. |
|  | When we have enough pictures, we will remove the catheter.  You can move again and get off the bed. |
|  | If you are not having any other scans, you can go home. |
|  | We will send a report of the scan to your doctors. |
|  | Please ask us if you have any questions. |