

Bladder catheterisation for Micturating Cystourethrogram in children

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What is the investigation for?

The paediatrician looking after your child has requested this investigation to find out if your child's bladder is filling and emptying properly.

There is a condition called uretic reflux, which is quite common. This means that when the bladder empties, some of the urine goes up into the tubes draining the kidneys (ureters) rather than passing down the urethra (urinary tube) leaving the body. If this is happening there is risk of inflammation or scarring of the kidneys.

Before your appointment

If your child requires this investigation you will receive a letter asking you to bring your child to the children's ward on the day of the procedure.

Your child will need to have a three-day course of antibiotics starting the day before the scan, so it will be helpful to make an appointment with your family doctor (GP) or referring consultant to make sure you have a prescription ready. This is because inserting the catheter into the bladder can increase the risk of urinary tract infection and the antibiotics may help to prevent this. If your child is not currently taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, he or she will need to take an antibiotic for three days, from the day before the scan until and including the day after the scan. If your child is currently taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, you will need to give double the dose for the three days, if you have any questions, please ask your referring doctor.

What will happen on the day?

You will be asked to attend ward 10 an hour before the scan to allow time for preparation.

The procedure is done by passing a thin soft plastic tube (catheter) into the bladder via the urethra. Local anaesthetic cream is applied to the opening of the urethra to numb the area. A children's nurse or doctor will insert the tube and tape to the skin to ensure it doesn't move.

Once the catheter is in place you will be asked to take your child to the x-ray department. In the department the radiologist will then pass a dye in the catheter, which will fill your child's bladder. This enables the radiologist to take the x-rays with the dye in the bladder to see how the bladder empties.

Benefits of the procedure

The procedure does not take long and provides valuable information for the paediatrician regarding the presence of reflux. If detected, it can be treated with medication, or, rarely, a surgical procedure.

Risks

Like with any x-ray there is some exposure to radiation, but the amount is low and precautions are taken to keep the levels to a minimum.

Very occasionally a child may have a reaction to the dye; however it is very unusual and can be dealt with immediately by the medical team.

What happens next?

Following the procedure you will receive an outpatient appointment with your child's paediatrician to discuss the results from the x-rays.

We recommend that you give your child plenty of fluid following the procedure to flush the dye out of their body.

Contact numbers:

Ward 10: 01493 452010

Hospital switchboard: 01493 452452

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240