

Having a micturating cystogram

Information for patients



What is a micturating cystogram?

Your doctor is worried that you may have a condition called reflux where some of the urine in your bladder flows back towards your kidney. This test will help to diagnose that condition. A catheter will be gently inserted into your bladder and x-ray dye (contrast) will then be run into your bladder, via this catheter. You will be asked to pass urine and x-ray pictures will be taken.

Who performs the test?

The test is performed by a team of healthcare professionals which may include a radiographer, an advanced radiographer practitioner / specialist radiographer, an assistant and a radiologist.

How do I prepare for the test?

You don't need to do anything to prepare for this test. Do not stop taking vital medicines (for example, heart drugs, steroids, diuretics / water tablets).

What should I bring with me?

You may wish to bring some spare underwear as the contrast is colourless but sticky. You will be required to change into a gown for this examination. We will provide you with a gown, but you may wish to bring your own dressing gown. Unfortunately we are unable to provide any childcare so please make alternative arrangements if necessary.

How long will I be in the department?

You can expect to be in the department for up to one hour. Although we try to keep to your appointment time, occasionally there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

Are there any side-effects?

Radiation

This procedure involves x-rays. Female patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff in advance.

The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary x-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately two years. The risk from this radiation dose is very low.

Allergic reaction

Some patients may be allergic to the x-ray dye (contrast) or medicines we give you. This is very rare. If you have any allergies please tell the member of staff who is performing your examination, at the start of the examination.

Do you ever fail to complete the examination?

This is a safe examination that is usually successful. If, for any reason, we are unable to perform the examination we will inform your doctor who will discuss the alternatives with you.

Despite these small risks your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination. Do bear in mind that there are greater risks from missing a serious disorder by not having the examination.

How will I feel following the test?

There is a small risk of infection. If you experience burning when you pass urine, loin (lower back) pains and a fever please see your doctor. Minor bleeding in your urine will settle.

How will I get my results?

You will not be given your results on the day. The results will be sent to your GP (if they referred you for the test. If so you must make an appointment to see them). If you have been referred by a hospital consultant / specialist then you will be sent an appointment to attend the relevant clinic or contacted by letter with the results.



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