

Micturating cystogram

Information for parents and carers



leeds children's
hospital

caring about children

What is Micturating Cystogram?

A Micturating Cystogram is a test to look at the outline of your child's bladder and where the urine in your child's bladder goes when it empties.

Important Information

Your child must be taking antibiotics before the test.

If your child is not already on antibiotics please make a GP appointment and get appropriate antibiotics prescribed.

The test will not be performed if your child is not on antibiotics.

How long will the examination last?

The examination will last approximately 30 minutes.

Who will perform the examination?

A Radiologist (a Doctor specialising in X-rays) will carry out the examination and will be assisted by Radiographers and Radiographer Assistants. Occasionally we will have Student Radiographers present who will be training.

Do I need to bring anything?

Please bring a feed and nappies for babies as well as a spare set of clothes. If your child has a special toy, blanket or book you can also bring this for comfort. iPads are available for your child to watch or play on during the examination if distraction is needed. They are also welcome to bring music and earphones to listen to, to help them relax.

I am pregnant can I stay with my child?

Yes you can come into the X-ray room and watch; however we will need you to bring someone else who can stay next to your child during the examination.

How do you keep babies still throughout the examination?

You will help to hold your child in the required position, and move them into different positions as requested by the Radiologist. Staff assisting with the procedure will also be available to help.

What happens during the examination?

The Radiologist will insert a small tube into your child's bladder which will be used to allow contrast to flow into the bladder.

X-rays are taken at regular intervals while the contrast flows into and fills the bladder.

We will wait for the contrast to fill the bladder and then wait for your child to wee out the contrast.

The process may be repeated to get more images and information.

What is contrast?

Contrast (X-ray dye) is a liquid that shows up on our X-rays, It outlines structures in the body so they can be seen on the X-ray. It is a clear sticky substance which allows the Radiologist to see parts of the body more clearly. Contrast is not radio-active.

“My child is anxious about the examination”

Please reassure your child that there is nothing to be embarrassed about. We carry out these examinations on a regular basis. If your child has a special toy, blanket or book you can also bring this for comfort. iPads are available for your child to watch or play on during the examination if distraction is needed. They are welcome to bring music and earphones to listen to, to help them relax.

Does the examination hurt?

The examination should not hurt. Sometimes it can make your child feel ‘full’ like they need to empty their bladder.

What aftercare is needed?

No aftercare is needed. We have washing facilities for babies and older children if needed.

Are there any associated risks?

X-rays are a type of radiation. Everybody is exposed to small amounts of natural background radiation from the soil, food and air we breathe. The Radiologist and Radiographer will make sure the smallest amount of X-rays are used in examination.

The risk from this radiation dose is low, and the benefits of your child having the examination outweigh these risks. When you support your child during the examination, you will also receive a small amount of radiation on top of the natural background radiation you receive annually.

This risk is negligible and the benefits of you comforting your child outweigh this risk. If you have any concerns about the radiation risk please speak to the Radiologist before the examination begins.

Having a catheter inserted carries a small risk of infection. It is very rare as we use a sterile (very clean) technique.

To reduce this risk we ask that your child has appropriate antibiotic cover.

The contrast (Xray dye) that we use can produce an allergic reaction in a small number of extreme cases. This will be risk assessed on an individual patient basis. If your child has ever had an allergic reaction to iodine please make the Radiologist aware.

Contact details

We are always happy to discuss any specific concerns or queries regarding any imaging investigation.

Appointment Queries - 0113 733 4974

Examination Queries - 0113 392 2336

For further information about Learning Disability and Autism support for your child please contact:

Email - Leedsth-tr.ldautism@nhs.net

Phone - 0113 206 6836



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