

Micturition cystogram (children)

A micturition cystogram uses X-rays to examine the bladder.

Purpose

For this examination, the inside of the bladder is filled with contrast dye to make it visible. The medical staff will also see whether the bladder fills properly, is well positioned (after urinating and emptying it) and whether the contrast dye has a 'backward flow' (reflux) to the kidneys.

Preparation

The paediatrician will consult you to determine the day and time that this examination takes place. A bladder catheter is required to get the contrast dye into the bladder. The catheter will be inserted at the Paediatric Ward. At the agreed time, you will report to the Paediatric Ward.

Duration

The examination will take approximately 30 minutes.

Examination

The paediatric nurse or paediatrician will insert the catheter in the bladder. A catheter is a soft rubber tube that drains urine. After the catheter is inserted, the small balloon will be inflated in the tube so that the catheter does not fall out. A urine storage pouch will be connected to the opening of the catheter.

Next, your child will lie down on a bed and will be taken to the Radiology Department. There, your child will lie on a table, and an X-ray lab technician will connect the contrast dye to the catheter opening.

The radiologist will begin the examination by letting the contrast dye flow into the bladder. As soon as your child has an urge to urinate, the bladder is full with liquid and the X-rays will be taken. The catheter will be removed by allowing the small balloon to deflate. The catheter will then easily slide out of the bladder.

Your child can immediately urinate on a mat on the X-ray table, in a pouch or in the toilet. During and/or after the urination, more X-rays will be taken. As a parent, you may stay for the duration of the examination.

After the examination

Your child may experience some pain while urinating due to the insertion of the catheter. It is advisable to let your child drink a lot on the day of the examination.

Your child will receive a short course of antibiotics around the time of the examination. The paediatrician will give you a prescription for the antibiotics.

The results

You will get the examination results when you visit the paediatrician at the Paediatrics Outpatient Clinic (020 – 755 7028).