

# Pediatric VCUG

We look forward to seeing you for your appointment.  
Please follow these instructions:

- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your test.
- A voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) is a test that uses X-rays to take pictures of the urinary system. It shows how well the bladder and its connecting tubes (the urethra and the ureters) are working by watching images on the X-ray machine.

## Before the test

- There isn't much physical preparation, except that children should be told what to expect.

## During the VCUG

- VCUG's use a xray machine to take pictures. Children can bring their favorite stuffed animal or toy with them to the test.
- Your child will change into a gown. One parent is encouraged to accompany the child. Your child will be asked to lie down on a bed and to put their legs like a butterfly. The nurse will wash between the legs with cotton and brown soap. This might feel a little cold.
- After everything is washed, the nurse will put a tiny tube called a catheter into your child's bladder through a small opening called a urethra. The urethra is the small opening in the body where urine comes out. It is important to tell your child to try to hold as still as they can. Once the tube is in the bladder, all the urine will come out the tube. When the bladder is empty, it is time for the VCUG.
- Now the radiologist will fill your child's bladder with contrast that will make the picture of the bladder clear. Children need to hold very still when the picture is taken. When the bladder is full of contrast, your child will feel like they have to go to the bathroom. At this point, the child needs to tell the technologist/radiologist when they can't hold it any longer. The doctor will tell them to go ahead and urinate right on the bed. It's important to urinate then so the doctor can watch their bladder empty. There will be towels, a bed pan, or a urinal to catch the water and the catheter tube will come as soon as the picture is taken.

## After the VCUG

- Once the test is over, your child can go into the bathroom and clean up, then they can get dressed and go home. They can return to school as soon as they want.

## Please bring relevant studies and reports to your appointment

University Radiology is able to obtain electronic images and reports for you if the previous studies were performed at our imaging centers or at the following hospitals:

Jersey City Medical Center  
Jersey Shore University Medical Center  
Raritan Bay Medical Center  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospitals in:  
New Brunswick, Somerset, Rahway, Hamilton  
Saint Michael's Medical Center  
Saint Peter's University Hospital  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center

## Please bring your prescription, insurance card, and photo ID

They are required for this procedure.

## Payment

You will be expected to pay your estimated co-payment, co-insurance and/or deductible at the time of your appointment. Please call your insurance provider if you have questions about your plan or coverage.

## Questions?

Please call us at **800-758-5545** and we will be happy to help.