Care Gram

Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)

Date of Test: _____ Test Time: _____

Welcome
Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG). This test is an X-ray of the bladder and urethra. It will be done by a radiologist, who is a doctor specializing in medical diagnosis by X-ray, and a radiographer, who is certified in the use of X-ray equipment.

How the Test Works
Typically, X-rays pass through the soft tissues of the body, such as the bladder. For this test, a special medication called a contrast agent will be used. This will help the bladder show up as clearly as bones do in an X-ray.

Allowing Time
The test may take 30 to 60 minutes; however, allow more time for the whole visit.

Preparation
No special preparation is needed for this test.

Registering
Please report directly to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor. Come to this area 20 minutes before your scheduled test time.

Special Instructions
- During the test, relax and do what is asked. It is important for the patient to hold their breath when asked.
- If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, let the doctor know before the test begins.

For parents of children:
- Be patient during the test, yet firm. You may stay in the room with the child during the test. Also, your child may be held still during some parts of the test.
- Talk with your child before the test and help him/her understand what to expect.

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Health Systems

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During a VCUG

- For this test, you will need to wear a gown and robe. You will be asked some questions about your health. The radiologist will obtain a signed consent. Then, you will be positioned on the table under a piece of X-ray equipment. The radiographer will take one X-ray to begin.
- The radiology nurse or specially trained Hospital personnel will then insert a catheter into the bladder, using a sterile technique. You may feel pressure as the catheter passes through the small urethral opening. Take slow, deep breaths to help. A small balloon at the end of the catheter is inflated. This helps the catheter stay in place during the test.
- Urine samples are taken at this time if the doctor ordered samples.
- A special medication, called contrast agent, will be put into the bladder through the catheter. The catheter then is clamped.
- An X-ray is taken after the bladder is full of contrast agent. The balloon on the catheter is deflated, and the catheter is removed. You will be asked to urinate while the radiologist takes an X-ray at the same time. The purpose of this X-ray is to view the urethra as the contrast agent passes through it.
- During the test, you may be asked to turn from side to side and hold different positions. At times, you also will be asked to stay still and hold your breath so that X-rays can be taken.

After the Test

You will need to wait while the radiologist reviews the X-rays. Sometimes more X-rays may be needed.

The contrast agent will come out in the urine. It should not discolor the urine or stool. The Betadine solution that was used to clean the pubic area is reddish-brown in color. It could look like blood right after the test, but it is not.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study the test and give the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will talk to you about the results.

Reminders

- If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4710.
- Go to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor 20 minutes before the test.

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This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.