

WHAT IS A VOIDING CYSTOURETHROGRAM?

The purpose of a Pediatric Voiding CystoUrethroGram (VCUG) is an examination of a child's bladder and lower urinary tract. The exam shows the structure and the function of these organs and sometimes the indication of reflux, which is when urine goes backward into the one or both ureters. The examination is performed by using a clear liquid called contrast and a special form of x-rays called fluoroscopy which produces images of the internal organs in motion.

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE PERFORMED?

The x-ray technologist will have your child change into a gown and lay on a special table. Infants and young children may be wrapped in a blanket or placed in a holder to keep them still during imaging.

The x-ray technologist will clean the perineum around the urethra with Betadine. Then a small thin tube, called a catheter will be inserted into the urethra. The urethra is a tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. Placing the catheter will cause some discomfort when it is slowly inserted. The bladder is filled with a water soluble contrast. As the bladder is filling, the radiologist will take several x-ray images. When the bladder is very full the child is asked to urinate while on the table and x-ray images are taken. The catheter

will come out while the child urinates. A final x-ray is taken when the bladder is emptied completely.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?

After taking all the images, the exam is finished. Some children may experience mild discomfort when urinating after the examination. This is temporary and will not persist.

Urinary System Diagram



