
Children's Services

Urodynamic studies – information for parents

What are urodynamic studies?

Urodynamic studies are investigations of urinary incontinence. The results will provide necessary information to plan the future care of your child's urinary problems.

This leaflet explains what preparation is required and what is involved.

What preparation is required?

Prior to the study you will be asked to fill in a chart with a record of your child's urinary output. This chart will be sent to you in the post, along with your appointment.

What is involved?

Urodynamic studies are performed in the x-ray department. Special equipment is used for the test, consisting of a computer screen and two monitoring lines.

These monitoring lines measure the pressure in your child's bladder and bowel. To perform the test, your child will need to be catheterised. This involves a small, soft plastic tube being put into the bladder and a second small tube being placed just inside the rectum. Neither of these procedures is painful, but they may give a slightly unusual sensation.

Children who use catheters on a daily basis will be asked to catheterise themselves in the x-ray department just before the test. Those who have not used them before may have the option of the catheter being inserted under general anaesthetic. This is done in the morning of the study day. The catheter will be inserted into the bladder from a small hole made in the lower abdomen. This is called a supra-pubic catheter. When your child has recovered from the anaesthetic, he/she will be able to go to the x-ray department.

The test normally lasts one hour. It involves filling the bladder with fluid through the catheter. The pressure in the bladder and bowel is measured continuously. When the bladder is full, an x-ray picture will be taken.

At the end of the test your child will be asked to pass urine into a mobile toilet to measure the volume of fluid in the bladder.

The test is frequently repeated twice to ensure that the results are accurate.

At the end, the catheters will be removed. A small dressing will be applied to the catheter hole. This may leak a little overnight, but will heal on its own.

Occasionally your child will be asked to take antibiotics for 48 hours after the test, to guard against possible infection.

The doctor, who is present with you and your child throughout, will discuss the results of the test with you at the end of the study.

You will be able to stay with your child during the test. He/she may like to bring with them a soft toy or a book to read.

Research has shown that children will cope much better with hospital procedures if they are well prepared and informed of what is going to happen. It is therefore important for you to talk to your child in a simple but positive way about what will happen when they come to the hospital.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone Clinic 6 on 01223 216410.



We are currently working towards a smoke-free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS Stop Smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or

patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



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