Paediatric Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCUG) Imaging Department

We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553
Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you remain concerned, PALS can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Author: Dr Clare Bennett
Department: Imaging
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Any Questions

If you have any questions about this examination, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01932 723054.

Where can I obtain more information?

The Royal College of Radiologists’ web site www.goingfora.com/radiology contains useful general information about x-ray departments, equipment and radiation which may interest you.

Information for Parents and Guardians

What is an MCUG?

A micturating cystourethrogram (MCUG) is a special x-ray examination of the bladder and the tube leading from the bladder which is called the urethra.

What will happen?

In order to see the bladder on x-rays it must be filled with a special colourless dye. This involves placing a very small tube called a catheter into the bladder. The catheterisation will be carried out in the x-ray room by the Consultant Radiologist and the x-rays will be taken immediately afterwards. The catheter is removed while the bladder is emptying.

Although most parents are anxious about the catheterisation most babies hardly notice it. Local anaesthetic jelly and lubricant are used to ensure that the procedure is as painless as possible. Babies dislike being held still for the procedure but this is essential. Please bring favourite toys, a dummy or bottle, if appropriate, for comfort and distraction.
Preparing for an MCUG

You should expect to be in the x-ray department for up to 45 minutes.  

It is desirable but not essential, for two adults/guardians to come with the child undergoing the MCUG so that one can help to hold the patient still and the other can provide comfort and entertainment. We request that on this occasion, whenever possible, other siblings are not brought to the hospital, since we cannot assist in caring for them.

Antibiotic Cover

Your child is probably on antibiotics once daily.

(If not on antibiotics at all please contact the Paediatric Department on receipt of this letter, 01932 723495)

On the day before the x-ray, you should double the frequency of administration I.e. give twice the normal dose in the morning, and twice the normal dose in the evening.

Continue this higher dose on the day of the x-ray and for 2 days after the x-ray (4 days double dose in total).

After this return to a once daily dose.

Are there any risks?

Infection
There is a very slight chance of introducing bladder infection during catheterisation and this is the reason for doubling the dose of antibiotic. To make absolutely certain that no infection has occurred you will be asked to bring a urine specimen to the hospital pathology Lab (08:45am-4pm) 3 days after the MCUG. Your GP surgery may also have a specimen collection service if it’s more convenient for you. A specimen container and request form will be given to you when you attend the x-ray department.

Radiation
The radiation risk from this examination is small. The National Radiological Protection Board and Royal College of Radiologists advise that it is equivalent to between 1 and 4 years of the background radiation dose that we receive throughout our lives.

Results
A radiologist will study all the pictures which have been taken and send a report to the Consultant Paediatrician who requested the MCUG. You will need to make an appointment to see this doctor to discuss the findings if you do not already have a follow up appointment arranged.