



## **Diagnostic Imaging**

# **MICTURATING CYSTOGRAM (Child)**

### **What is a Micturating Cystogram?**

This is an examination of part of the urinary system (i.e. bladder and urethra) using X-rays and X-ray contrast, which is a clear liquid that shows up on X-ray pictures.

### **What does the examination involve?**

For this examination your child will need to be catheterised. This involves cleaning the genital area and passing a small tube through the urethra and into the bladder.

This procedure is uncomfortable rather than painful and gives a sensation of wanting to pass urine. This sensation usually settles quickly.

Fluid is passed through the catheter into the bladder with your child lying beneath the x-ray machine. The doctor will watch this on a monitor and will take pictures with your child in different positions.

The catheter will then be removed and your child will pass the fluid, while the doctor takes more x-ray pictures.

This completes the examination.

Your child can then be dried and dressed.

We generally take off all clothing so they don't become soiled.

We normally ask one parent/carer to stay with the child during the examination to provide support and encouragement. We cannot allow you to stay with your child if you are pregnant, it is important to protect an unborn child. If you are or may be pregnant it would be a good idea to bring someone else who can stay with your child.

The examination usually takes around 30 minutes.

### **Is there any preparation?**

Your child will need to take an antibiotic for 3 days starting the day before the test.

This antibiotic is usually one called Trimethoprim (at a dose of 4mg/kg weight taken in the morning and the evening).

If the paediatrician has not already given you a prescription for this medicine, please take this letter to your GP to request a prescription.

Some children will already be taking this antibiotic at night only, as a Prophylactic medicine to prevent urinary tract infections. If this is the case for your child, then please give double the normal dose in the morning and evening for 3 days (starting the day before the test).

Young babies less than 6 months of age will be asked to go to Kingfisher Ward on the morning of the examination for one dose of an antibiotic given by injection into the muscles of the leg before the test is performed.

## After the examination

Your child should be encouraged to drink plenty of fluids for a day or two following the examination.

There is a small risk of introducing infection during the procedure and causing a urine infection. This risk is reduced by using the prophylactic antibiotics and by the aseptic precautions we use when inserting the catheter. In the unlikely event that your child develops a fever or becomes unwell in the 48 hours after the procedure, you should contact your GP or the 111 service and explain that your child has had a Micturating Cystogram and you are concerned they may have a urine infection. It is essential that your child is seen by a doctor and a clean catch urine sample is obtained and sent to the lab

## How will we find out the results of the examination?

Your imaging examination will be reported on by a Diagnostic Imaging specialist – e.g. Radiologist, Sonographer, Reporting Radiographer.

The report will be issued to your referring G.P. or Consultant team who will inform you of the next steps in your care pathway.

The availability of the report can vary dependent on the type and complexity of the imaging examination.

Your child's X-ray images may be sent to Southampton General Hospital to be reviewed by the Consultant paediatric urologist there.

## And Finally

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us on (01305) 254428

### About this leaflet:

Author: Jeanette Bartlett, Fluoroscopy Lead  
Written: December 2018  
Approved: 01/10/2024  
Review date: 01/10/2027  
Edition: v3

If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email [patientinformationleaflets@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:patientinformationleaflets@dchft.nhs.uk)



**INTEGRITY | RESPECT | TEAMWORK | EXCELLENCE**

© 2024 Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Williams Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2JY  
[www.dchft.nhs.uk](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk)