

Radiology Imaging Services

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What is a VCUG?

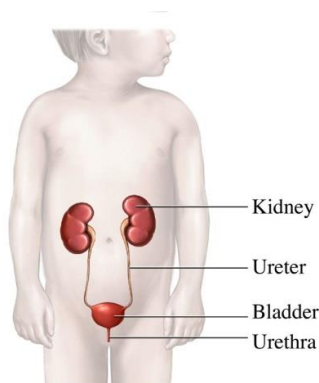
VCUG is an exam of the bladder and urethra.

- Shows urine in the bladder and ureter.
- Shows problems with bladder emptying,
- Shows urine reflux into ureters and kidneys.

Voiding	To urinate or pass urine.
Cysto	Bladder where urine is stored.
Urethra	Tube going from bladder to outside of body.
Reflux	Backing up of urine.
Catheter	Small soft tube that goes into the bladder.

The urinary system is made up of:

2 kidneys 2 ureters
1 bladder 1 urethra



1. Kidneys remove waste products from blood.
2. Waste passes as urine.
3. Urine flows out through the ureters into the bladder where it's stored.
4. Urine passes from bladder through the urethra to the outside.

Reflux of urine

Valves are at the ends of each ureter.

- They open to let urine into bladder.
- They close to stop urine from flowing back into the kidneys.

If valves stay open, urine can flow back into the ureters and/or kidneys. **This is called reflux.**

How we do the VCUG

A member of our Radiology team will meet with you. We will ask about your child's history, tell you about the procedure and answer your questions.

1. Your child will:
 - Put on a hospital gown.
 - Lie on a firm bed in a dimly lit room.
2. We place a catheter into the bladder.
 - This may cause slight discomfort.
 - It only takes only a short time to place.
3. Liquid – contrast medicine
 - A bottle of liquid called contrast medication (looks like water) slowly drips into the bladder through the catheter.
 - We take x-ray pictures as the contrast fills the bladder.
4. Bladder fills
 - When your child feels the need to urinate this means the bladder is becoming full.
 - We take an x-ray when the bladder is full.
 - After the x-ray we remove the catheter.
5. Bladder empties
 - We will ask your child to urinate in a cup or towel while on the x-ray table.
 - This may seem awkward at first but it's very important to take x-ray pictures as your child's bladder empties.

Will my child be sedated?

No. There is only a little discomfort when we place the catheter. The technologist or Child Life Specialist will use helpful techniques to help your child relax during the exam.

Helping your child understand

Child Life Specialists explain procedures to children. They use special words, toys and games developed for each age group. This helps children better understand what happens during the exam.

Child Life also helps children relax and cope by using comforting stories and calming exercises.



Please let us know if you, or a member of your family, would like to visit with a Child Life Specialist before the exam. You can call the Child Life Department if you have any questions or concerns at 682-885-2677.

Special instructions

1. Please report to Patient Registration at your child's scheduled **arrival** time.
2. Your child can usually eat and drink as usual before the procedure.
3. The VCUG takes about 45 minutes.
4. If your child has a fever 12 hours before the appointment, we will need to reschedule the appointment. Call your doctor for treatment.
5. Parents can stay in the room during the procedure.
6. Expectant mothers may not be in the exam room during the procedure.
7. Please do not bring other children. Your child will need all of your attention during the procedure.
8. Parents will complete a questionnaire about your child's medicines and allergies.
9. If your daughter is 10 years or over, we will need to fill out a pregnancy questionnaire and possibly do a pregnancy test.
10. If you are unable to keep your child's appointment please call us as soon as possible.

After the VCUG

- Your child may eat and drink as usual.
- May return to normal activities.

A radiologist will read the exam and send the results to your child's doctor. You may contact your child's doctor for the results.

My notes

These instructions are only general guidelines. Your doctor may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your doctor.