

# Voiding Cystourethrogram/VCUG

# Patient Information

## **Overview**

A VCUG is an x-ray exam that allows us to visualize your bladder and ability to empty your bladder. A catheter (a small, soft, flexible tube) will need to be placed into your bladder through the urethra (the tube that drains urine from the bladder) and a special iodinated contrast liquid that shows up well on x-rays will be introduced through the catheter in order to fill the bladder. For the first VCUG, you should be off of antibiotics for 2 weeks with no signs of a urinary tract infection (fever, painful urination, urine with an unusually strong odor). For follow-up VCUG's, it is fine if you are on daily antibiotics, as long as no signs of infection are present.

## **Preparation for the exam:**

There is no special preparation for this exam.

## **Appointment time:**

Your appointment will be scheduled ahead of time by your doctors' office through the hospital scheduling service. If you are unsure of your appoint time, need to reschedule, or cancel your appointment, please contact your doctors' office or the hospital scheduling service at 770-538-7666 Menu Option 1. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your exam, as you will be required to register, visit our billing office and fill out other necessary forms. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will get to your study as quickly as possible.

## **Your VCUG:**

You will be escorted into the exam room by a radiologic technologist. You will have to change into a hospital gown, and a plain x-ray film will be taken. The radiologist will enter the room and take a brief history from you so that he/she will be able to perform an accurate study for you. The first part of the test requires that your urethra (the opening that drains urine) be cleaned with an antiseptic solution prior to placing the catheter. You will feel uncomfortable when the catheter is placed into the bladder, however it should not be painful, it is rather more like a pinching or pushing feeling and this feeling is over very quickly. A bottle of iodinated contrast is then attached to the catheter using IV tubing, and allowed to flow into your bladder. As the bladder is filling, the radiologist will take x-ray pictures with a special camera called a fluoroscope, in order to see all the required anatomy to make an accurate diagnosis. You will need to turn in various positions in order to get the required x-rays. Once the bladder is full, you will need to urinate so that we may take x-ray pictures during this time. This test typically takes 10-15 minutes once the catheter is placed into the bladder. You can expect to be in the X-ray room for about 45 minutes.

## **The conclusion of your exam:**

You will receive written, take-home instructions at the conclusion of your exam. You may eat and drink immediately following the exam.

## **Results:**

The radiologist will interpret your exam and the results of your exam will be sent to your doctor.

