

Paediatric Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCUG)

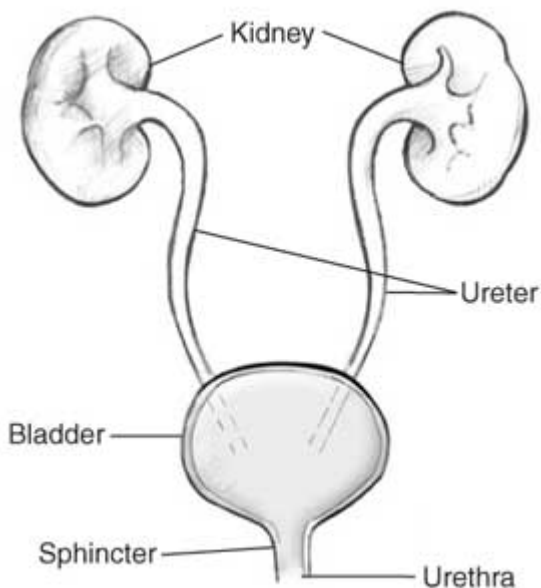
Information for parents and carers

Introduction

This leaflet will explain how a micturating cystourethrogram (MCUG) is performed on babies and infants. It will answer some of the most commonly asked questions and should give you an overview of the procedure. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but it can act as a starting point for such discussion.

What is an MCUG?

An MCUG is a special x-ray study to assess your child's urinary system and how well your child's bladder works. It is used to diagnose why your child has urinary tract infections and can also be performed if there has been an abnormality seen in the kidneys on ultrasound.



What happens during an MCUG?

You will be able to stay with your child throughout the test. Mums and carers will be asked if they are pregnant by the Radiographer, in Radiology, to protect babies in the womb from receiving unnecessary irradiation. If you are pregnant, please bring another carer to stay with your child as you will not be allowed in the x-ray room. The staff in Radiology and you will be required to wear a lead apron as you are not having the investigation yourself.

Your appointment might take place at either Conquest or Eastbourne District General Hospital, this will be included within the appointment letter. Both sites offer this investigation, however the procedure of catheterisation before the exam differs between the two sites:

A catheter (which is a very thin tube) is inserted into the child's bladder through the urethra:

At Conquest Hospital for both male and female patients, the catheter is inserted by highly trained medical staff on Kipling ward approximately an hour before the radiology appointment. After this has been inserted, you will go with your child to the Radiology department with the catheter carefully taped in place under the nappy for the rest of the investigation to take place.

At Eastbourne District General Hospital female patients are catheterised by highly trained medical staff at Friston (outpatients), approximately an hour before the radiology appointment. After this has been inserted, you will go with your child to the Radiology department with the catheter carefully taped in place under the nappy for the rest of the investigation to take place. Male patients are catheterised within the Radiology department, at the time of appointment by the Radiologist.

Once the catheter is in place, and the patients are at the Radiology Departments at either Conquest or Eastbourne District General Hospital the Radiologist will inject an x-ray dye (contrast medium) through the catheter. The dye which is a clear liquid shows up on x-ray and is seen in the bladder and the urinary system. When your child has a pee, the catheter is removed, and x-rays are used to see if the dye travels up the ureters to the kidneys. This is called reflux and may be the cause of urinary tract infections. Your child will have a small number of x-rays.

Does the catheter hurt?

Bring a favourite blanket, dummy or small toy to comfort your child.

We find that withholding the feed (if bottle fed) before the test and feeding the baby as the catheter is inserted tends to distract them. The catheter should not hurt going in, but it may be a little uncomfortable and your child may cry as they need to be held still while it is introduced. Once the catheter is placed, they will not feel it. They can pee with it in, and they do not feel it as it is removed.

Are there risks?

Your child will usually be taking antibiotics prescribed by their Paediatrician. Inserting the catheter into the bladder can increase the risk of urinary tract infection and taking antibiotics reduces this risk. Please check with the Paediatrician if your child is not on antibiotics, before attending the appointment.

If your child is unwell or has a temperature on the day of the MCUG please contact Radiology and do not attend the appointment.

When you go home

Although it is unlikely, if your child develops a high temperature following the MCUG, they may have a urinary tract infection. Please contact your GP.

What are the alternatives?

Your child's Paediatrician and the Paediatric Radiologist expect that this test is most appropriate for diagnosing why your child may have symptoms to help offer treatment. Ultrasound can provide information about the size and shape of your child's kidneys and bladder but will not show reflux.

If you have any questions regarding what is the most fitting test for you, please speak to your referring Paediatrician to explain to you the available options.

Consent

Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the patient experience team on 0300 131 4784 or esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net.

Hand hygiene

We are committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of our leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department on 0300 131 4434 or esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Contact information:

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Eastbourne Radiology Department on: 0300 131 5853 (Ext. 735853).
Conquest Radiology Department on: 0300 131 5149 (Ext. 735149).**

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr GMT Watson – Consultant Radiologist – Eastbourne District General Hospital - Radiology

Dr J Dagiakidi – Consultant Radiologist – Conquest Hospital - Radiology

The directorate group that has agreed this patient information leaflet:
Core Services Division - Radiology

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Responsible clinician/author: Dr GMT Waston and Dr J Dagiakidi

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