

Information for parents

Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCUG)

This leaflet is for children and parents to give them some information about MCUG.

What is a MCUG?

The doctor has asked for your child to have a special scan called a MCUG.

A MCUG is a special type of x-ray test that looks inside your baby or child's body while he or she is passing urine. Both 'micturating' and 'voiding' mean passing urine. The test looks at the bladder, which stores the urine and the urethra which is the tube that carries the urine out of the body. A tube called a urinary catheter is put through the urethra into the bladder. Contrast dye is used, which can show how the urine flows. An x-ray machine will take pictures over a period of time while his or her bladder empties.

The MCUG can show if there is a blockage (valve) which prevents the urine draining out (a condition called posterior urethral valve) or if the urine goes up the wrong way back from the bladder to the kidneys (a condition called vesico-ureteral reflux).

Babies requiring MCUG do not need sedation and the MCUG will be done in our radiology department. If your child is older, he or she may need to be sedated for urine catheter insertion and will be referred to Addenbrooke's hospital for the MCUG to be done.

What are the risks of MCUG?

Radiation

A MCUG uses a small amount of radiation and is considered safe. However, your doctor will carefully consider the risks and benefits of doing the test for your child.

Putting you first

Discomfort or pain when passing urine

Your baby or child may feel some discomfort or pain when passing urine after the test or need to go to the toilet more often. This is usually because of the irritation from the urinary catheter and should go away after a few days. If your child continues to have problems, speak to a nurse or to your doctor.

Urine infection

Babies and children who have a MCUG have a greater risk of a urinary tract infection when the germs get into the urine and cause infection. Your doctor will prescribe an antibiotic to prevent urinary tract infection. The antibiotic needs to be started three days before the MCUG and for about two days after the test.

How to prepare your child for the MCUG?

Remember to give the antibiotic as instructed by your doctor (to start three days before the test and for two days after the test).

If your child has a urinary infection, speak to your doctor because the test may need to wait until your child is better.

The doctor will ask whether your child is allergic to any medicines or contrast dye that may be used during the test. Older girls will be asked if they are pregnant. This is because ionising radiation from x-rays may harm an unborn baby.

At the appointment

MCUG will be done in the radiology department by a paediatric radiologist.

The doctor will ask whether your baby or child has allergies to any medicines or contrast dye that may be used during the test. Older girls and mothers will be asked if they are pregnant. This is because ionising radiation from x-rays may harm an unborn baby.

If you have a baby who does not require sedation, you may need to bring a feed with you or be asked to breast feed your baby when you arrive.

Your child will need to lie on the table and a urinary catheter will be carefully placed through the opening where your baby passes urine and into the urethra. A small amount of contrast dye is put through the catheter and flows into the bladder.

A machine will take pictures while your baby or child's bladder empties. The images will show whether and where the urine has been blocked and whether the urine flows back up towards the kidneys.

After the scan, your child may usually go home straight away.

After the scan

Contact your doctor if your child:

- Has blood in the urine for more than two days (the urine may look red or brown).
- Signs of urinary tract infection such as a temperature over 38°C, being sick, feeling irritable or lethargic.

The results of the scan will be sent to the doctor who requested the scan and an appointment will be sent to you to discuss the results with your doctor.

Should you have any worries or concerns after leaving hospital, please feel free to contact us on the number which has been given to you if you have open access or on 01284 713315 (Rainbow ward).

If you have any specific concerns that you feel have not been answered, please contact the paediatric team on the following:

Rainbow Ward 01284713315

References

- Infokid.org.uk, information for parents and carers about children's kidneys conditions.
- Addenbrooke's Hospital MAG 3 scan parents information leaflet.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the hospital website www.wsh.nhs.uk and click on the link, or visit the disabledgo website:

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>

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