



INFORMATION SHEET PEDIATRIC VCUG

What is a VCUG?

It is a special xray of your child's urinary system called a voiding cystourethrogram.

Why is it necessary?

It is ordered by your doctor if your child has had urinary tract infections. It helps to see if there are any abnormalities causing the infections. This is the only test that will show if the urine is backing up into the kidneys.

How is it done?

A small tube called a catheter is placed in the urinary opening by your child's doctor or nurse shortly before the xray is taken. A thin layer of special gel is used to help the catheter to go in easily. During the xray, a liquid is put into the catheter so the radiologist can see how the bladder fills and empties. This generally causes slight pressure only. The xray takes about one hour. It is helpful for the child to drink plenty of water and bring water with you.

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound may be ordered by your child's doctor. It is also done in the xray department. Sound waves are used to produce an image of the urinary system for the radiologist to review. The patient cannot feel the sound waves. Usually a special diet is given the night before and the child is to drink plenty of clear liquids in order to get a good image on the ultrasound.