

MCUG scans in children

Child Health Information

What is a Micturating Cystourethrogram (MCUG)?

A MCUG is a scan which shows how well your child's bladder works. It is used to diagnose why your child may have urinary tract infections. It is also used to show up any abnormalities with your child's urinary system. The scan involves having a special sort of dye called contrast media put through a catheter into the bladder. The bladder lining then shows up on X-ray pictures.



Preparing for the MCUG scan

Antibiotics

Your child will need to have a three-day course of antibiotics starting on the day of the scan and continuing for 3 days in total, so it will be helpful to make an appointment with your family doctor (GP) or contact your consultant to make sure you have a prescription ready once you know the date of the scan. This is because inserting the catheter into the bladder can increase the risk of a urinary tract infection, and the antibiotics may help to prevent this.

Nearer the time the radiology department will send you the date for the scan and a reminder about the antibiotics etc.

If your child is not currently taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections:

They will need to take an antibiotic for three days, from the day before the scan until and including the day after the scan (usually trimethoprim at a dose of 4mg/kg body weight per day, twice a day). Your GP can prescribe this.

If your child is currently taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections:

If your child is on once daily Trimethoprim to prevent urine infections you will need to give **double** the dose for three days, from the day before the scan until and including the day after the scan. This can either be as one single larger dose per day or give an extra dose in the morning or evening. Contact your GP or consultant if you have any questions about this.

If your child is taking different regular antibiotic such as nitrofurantoin please contact your GP or consultant for advice about the dose. Your child will need to have a full treatment dose of antibiotic for 3 days.

Urine infections or other illnesses

We would advise that the scan is postponed if your child has a urine infection at the time of the scan. Please telephone the radiology department on **(01225) 824378** to rearrange the date of the scan if your child has a urine infection.

Other information about preparing for the scan

You will be able to stay with your child throughout the scan; the only exception to this is for pregnant women so it would then be a good idea to find another family member or friend who can stay with your child. Please note that other children will not be able to accompany the patient and parent/guardian into the X-ray room. The hospital staff cannot look after any siblings.

Please bring a comforter/toy etc. to distract the child during the examination. Please also bring a change of nappy, suitable baby wipes and a change of clothes.

What happens during the examination?

Your child will need to be put onto the scanning bed so that the doctor (radiologist) can insert the catheter (soft tube) into your child's bladder through the urethra using some local anaesthetic gel. This does not hurt but it may be a little uncomfortable just while the tube goes in.

Once the catheter is in place, a small amount of contrast medium or dye will be put in through the catheter to fill up the bladder. The catheter may be removed from your child's bladder. Babies and young children will naturally pee when the bladder is full. Older children will be given a jug to pee into while lying on the table, when they feel ready.

The radiologist/radiographer will take a few X-ray pictures while your child is peeing, which you will be able to see on the screen. Your child may need to be held still while these pictures are being taken.

After the examination

The dye is colourless and does not cause any problem with urination. The child should be kept well-hydrated to flush the dye out over the next 24 hours.

Occasionally the child may develop a urinary tract infection after the procedure. If your child becomes unwell after the examination you should **continue the antibiotics (see above) and seek medical attention from your GP or the hospital.**

When do I get the result?

The radiologist will send a report of the examination to the doctor who requested the examination. The doctor who ordered the test will contact you with the results either by phone, letter or when they next see you in clinic. If you have concerns about the result and have not heard anything after 4 weeks please contact your consultant's secretary (via RUH switchboard 01225 428331)

Further information

Your GP, hospital doctor or health visitor will be happy to give further advice.

For general advice about UTIs in children see the NHS choices website

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Urinary-tract-infection-children/Pages/Introduction.aspx>