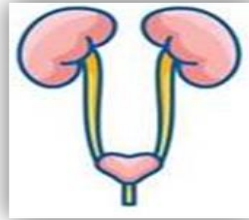


INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

HAVING URODYNAMIC STUDIES



WHAT ARE URODYNAMIC STUDIES?

Urodynamic studies assess the function of the bladder and urethra during filling and emptying. The studies include frequency volume charts, uroflow, pre and post void scans and cystometry.

FREQUENCY VOLUME CHARTS

The information obtained from a drinking and voiding chart provides invaluable additional information which will help to determine appropriate treatment.

Frequency volume charts record the time and volume of each drink and wee, as well as episodes of wetting. It is important to fill them in as accurately as possible and that they reflect your child's normal pattern.

UROFLOW

This is a simple test that measures the speed and volume of the flow. Your child will need to wee normally on a flow chair which is similar to a normal toilet with a comfortably full bladder. They will need to drink before the test to fill the bladder but try to avoid drinking to excess.

After going to the toilet your child will have an ultrasound scan using jelly on their belly to check how well the bladder has emptied.

STANDARD CYSTOMETRY

- This is a more detailed test that fills the bladder with water and gives us information about the function of the lower urinary tract during the filling and emptying phase of the bladder cycle.
- While the bladder is filling it can contract and squeeze out water without warning. This test will record the pressure at the point the leakage occurs.
- Your child will be asked to cough at intervals throughout the test as a quality control measure and to help evaluate the strength of the sphincter muscles.
- In some cases your child may be asked to empty their bladder on the toilet when they are full to measure the pressure it generates.
- This test requires a small catheter to be placed in the bladder to fill it and also a small balloon catheter in their bottom to measure pressure.
- If it is not possible to put a catheter into the bladder via the urethra (where wee comes out) your child may require a catheter to be put into the bladder through the tummy wall just below the belly button. This is called a suprapubic catheter (SPC) and will be inserted in theatre under anaesthetic 24-48hrs before the test. This decision will be made by your Consultant.
- To measure the muscle activity in and around the urethral sphincter, small stickers are placed on the skin near the rectum. Muscle activity is recorded and the patterns of the impulse show us how the muscles of the bladder neck are functioning.
- The information gathered during a cystometry helps us make decisions about future management of your bladder.

SCREENING CYSTOMETRY

- This involves using contrast fluid instead of water which can be seen on x-ray. This allows us to see the bladder and urethra clearly.
- Screening cystometry takes place in the x-ray department. Standard cystometry takes place in the Urodynamics department.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- **7-10 days** prior to the cystometry date, please send a **specimen of urine to your GP/local hospital** to check for infection and treat if required. An infection can irritate the bladder and give false test results.
- **Fasting is NOT required** for urodynamics.
- If you require a **suprapubic catheter** you will be **admitted** to the Day unit and go to theatre. This will require fasting. You will be contacted by the hospital with a fasting/admission time.
- You will either be admitted to the ward after SPC or you can go home. SPC's are put in on the **Monday** and the test is on the **Wednesday**.
- The test generally takes **2-3 hours** to complete.
- Please feel free to bring entertainment/distraction for your child such as hand held video games/books etc.
- Once the test is complete the catheter will be removed and you will be able to go home.
- It is important to be aware that the catheter can cause minor irritation to the bladder/urethra. It is advised to give your child plenty of fluids afterwards.
- Your nurse will discuss the results with your Consultant and you will be contacted with the plan of care in due course.

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone 01 4096100 - Bleep 8687 / 8686

If you need assistance out of hours please contact your local GP or emergency department.

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

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Developed by CNSp, Urology Department

Date issued: January 2018

Date of review: January 2021

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