



# Fluoroscopy

## Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)

### What is Fluoroscopy?

- Uses X-Rays to look inside the body
  - X-Rays are beams of radiation, similar to light, that can pass through the body to create a series of pictures.
  - Contrast, a special liquid, is used to fill an organ so it is easier to see in the pictures.
- A Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG) is a type of fluoroscopy exam.

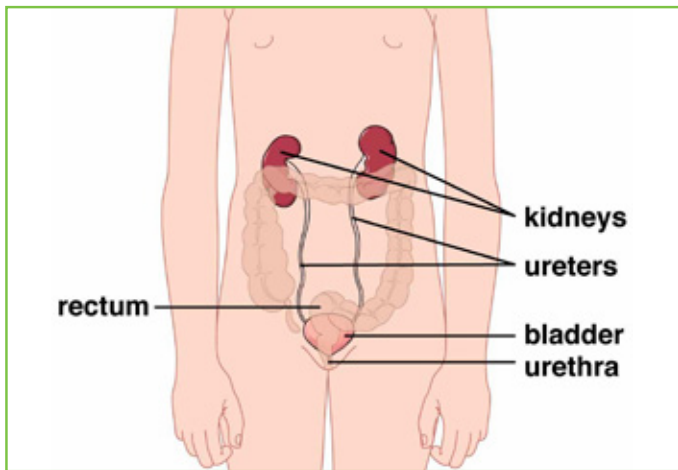
### What will the VCUG be like?

- A small soft tube will be placed in your child's bladder and contrast will be given through it.
- Once the contrast fills the bladder, your child will be asked to urinate (pee).
- A special camera will use X-rays to take a series of pictures of the bladder and kidneys during the test.
- The exam should take about 30-45 minutes.



## Are there any risks?

- The small tube may cause bleeding, infection, or pain.
- Radiation may be harmful.
- Rarely a child has an allergic reaction to the contrast.



## What can this test tell your child's doctor?

- It will show your child's bladder and kidneys, and how they are working.
- It may show the cause of your child's clinical problem.
  - Can show if urine is going backward toward the kidneys
- It may tell the doctor what can be done for your child's clinical problem.

## What can we expect after the test?

- The small tube may irritate the inside of your child's bladder.
  - This can cause their urine to have a pink color.
  - This should go away by the next day.
  - Drinking more fluids can help.

## When will I get the results?

- Your child's doctor will tell you the results.
- It usually takes about 1 day for your doctor to get the results.

### Questions before the test or after hours?

Contact the radiology department

### Questions after the test?

Contact the doctor that requested the test

For more information go to:

[www.imagegently.org](http://www.imagegently.org)

## How much radiation is used in this test?

We are all exposed to small amounts of radiation daily. This background radiation can come from soil, rocks, air, water, and the sun. The amount of radiation used in a VCUg depends on the size and shape of your child. We can compare this radiation to the amount of background radiation we get in a day.

## Is this radiation harmful to my child?

- Even small amounts of radiation carry a low risk of being harmful.
- It is not known if small amounts of radiation increase the risk of cancer.

## Should I allow my child to have a VCUg even though it uses radiation?

- Usually the benefits of a VCUg outweigh the small risk from the radiation.
- A VCUg may be the only way your doctor can learn the cause of your child's problem.
- This test may solve problems faster and with less pain than other tests.



### Radiation Source

3 hour airline flight

Chest X-ray

VCUG

### Background Radiation

1.5 days

1.5 days

9 days to 6 months

## How can we lower the radiation to my child?

- Newer equipment can use lower X-ray doses.
- Body parts not being looked at can be protected with lead shields.
- Only use X-ray tests when they are needed.