

# Having a micturating cystogram (adults)

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**This leaflet explains what happens during a micturating cystogram examination in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The examination is conducted by a radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor).**

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## What is a micturating cystogram?

This examination is to look at your bladder and urethra (the small tube through which urine is passed).

## Why do I need this test?

It is used to diagnose why you are getting urinary tract infections. The test will show if any urine flows back (refluxes) from the bladder into the kidneys. This information is vital for the appropriate care of your problems.

## How long will it take?

The investigation takes between 30 to 40 minutes.

## Preparation

There is no preparation for this test. However, if you weigh over 18 stone / 115kg, please contact us beforehand by telephoning 0118 322 7991 or email [rbft.radiologyadmin@nhs.net](mailto:rbft.radiologyadmin@nhs.net).

## What does it involve?

You will be asked to change into a gown removing clothing, including underwear. You will lie on the X-ray table while a radiographer / nurse will place a thin soft tube (a catheter) through the urethra into your bladder. The tube will be coated with local anaesthetic jelly to numb the area to reduce discomfort. An X-ray contrast liquid that can be seen on X-rays is run into the bladder via the catheter. This is not painful but your bladder needs to be very full, so it may be slightly uncomfortable. The catheter is then removed. The X-ray equipment is moved and you will be asked to sit on a special commode suitable for X-rays and asked to pass water while the radiologist takes X-rays.

## After the micturating cystogram

Routine prophylactic (preventative) antibiotics are not required. However, if after the examination (within 7 days) you experience high temperatures, fevers or smelly urine, please consult your GP, as you may need antibiotics.

## Results

A report of your examination will be sent to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

## Are there any risks?

This test involves X-rays. The amount of radiation is low and is kept to a minimum. **For women of childbearing age, if there is any chance you might be pregnant you need to notify us,** as radiation is potentially harmful to the baby.

## Further information

[www.patient.co.uk/health/micturatingvoiding-cystourethrogram-mcugvcug](http://www.patient.co.uk/health/micturatingvoiding-cystourethrogram-mcugvcug)

## Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991 or email [rbft.radiologyadmin@nhs.net](mailto:rbft.radiologyadmin@nhs.net).

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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Radiology Department, September 2023

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