

Procedure Information: Cystogram

What is a Cystogram or (voiding) Cystogram?

A Cystogram or (voiding) Cystogram also known as (VCUG) is a radiographic exam of your bladder and lower urinary tract. It requires an insertion of a catheter and filling of the bladder with an iodinated water (water soluble) contrast. With the bladder filled and then emptied (voided) of the contrast the radiologist can evaluate the anatomy and function of the bladder and lower urinary tract.

When is a Cystogram ordered?

A Cystogram is usually ordered when abnormalities in the flow of urine are detected such as a condition called reflux. Reflux is a condition where urine flows backwards from your bladder back into your uterus or kidney which can cause an infection. Cystograms are often recommended after urinary tract infection.

Patient Preparation

There is no special preparation for this exam. Report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.

What happens during a Cystogram procedure?

You will be taken to a private changing room, asked to remove your clothing from the waist down and put on a hospital gown. A radiographer will take you to an exam room, verify your identity (name and birth date) and obtain medical history for the radiologist. You will then be positioned on the examination table on your back and a specially trained nurse will perform your bladder catheterization.

The genital area will be cleansed with an antiseptic and a catheter will be inserted into your bladder. The catheter will be taped to the skin so that it does not dislodge during the procedure. The bladder will be filled with the liquid iodine solution by gravity, once the bladder is full the catheter will be removed and you will be asked to urinate or void on the table onto an absorbent pad. Radiographic images are obtained during the filling and voiding of the bladder.

Length of procedure

Cystogram procedures usually are completed within 30 to 45 minutes.

What will I experience after the procedure?

The antiseptic solution that is used for preparation of the catheter may feel cold. You may experience some discomfort when the catheter is inserted and

as the bladder fill with the radiographic contrast. Some experience a slight discomfort during the urination immediately after the procedure. This is usually resolved in less than 12 hours.