

URODYNAMICS (VIDEOCYSTOGRAM)

What is it?

Urodynamics or a Videocystogram as it is sometimes known is a study that investigates bladder function.

What preparation is needed for the examination?

You need to come to the Department with a full bladder. This allows us to take a measurement while you empty your bladder in private. If you arrive uncomfortably full please inform a member of staff immediately so that we can do this test as soon as possible. If you have a urinary catheter no preparation is required. Please eat and drink normally prior to the investigation and take all prescribed medications.

What exactly happens during the examination?

When you arrive in the Department either a radiographer, radiographer's helper or nurse will ask you to empty your bladder into a machine that measures the rate and volume of your flow of urine. Following this you will be taken into a cubicle to get changed for the rest of the examination and then into the fluoroscopic (x-ray) room, where the Consultant Radiologist (doctor) will explain the examination prior to performing it. Please feel free to ask the doctor any questions you may have. You will be asked to lie on the x-ray table. Two catheters will be inserted into your bladder (male patients are usually given a local anaesthetic) and another catheter will be inserted into your rectum. The bladder is then filled with Xray fluid - contrast (Urografin), while readings are being taken of the pressure within your bladder (via one of the catheters). When your bladder feels full, one of the

catheters will be removed and the x-ray table will be moved into an upright position. You will be asked to empty your bladder into a special container, whilst the radiologist takes x-rays of your bladder. When the x-rays have been taken, the remaining catheters will be removed.

Does the procedure hurt?

There will be some discomfort while the catheters are placed but this reduces quickly and after a few minutes you will not be aware of them.

How long will it take?

The examination usually takes 30 - 40 minutes but can take up to an hour in some cases.

When will I get my results?

When you have had the examination, the radiographer will tell you how and approximately when you will get the results but they are usually sent to the doctor who referred you to us within 48 hours.

Aftercare

You should drink plenty of fluid for the rest of the day. You may experience some blood in your urine and some stinging and burning when you empty your bladder. This is to be expected but should not last for more than 12 hours and should not be heavy. However, if this persists for more than 24 hours or you have developed a fever then you should consult either your GP, your consultant or the Radiology Department as you may have developed a urinary tract infection that may require antibiotics.

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