

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)

1. **What is a VCUG?** Answer: A VCUG is an exam done to assess for urinary reflux (urine refluxes back up the ureters into the kidneys).
2. **Will my child be sedated for the procedure?** Answer: Sedation is **not** a requirement for this procedure. However, if the parent believes that the child has been traumatized in the past by similar procedures, then the referring physician may order the test with oral sedation. **Note: If there is a history of sexual abuse, this procedure may be scheduled with intravenous sedation.**
3. **Is there an age limit for sedation?** Answer: We can sedate children from the ages of 2 to 8.
4. **Will my child be completely “out”?** Answer: Sedation is given to produce only a mild form of sedation. Your child **will not** be completely asleep. A very important part of the test includes the child being able to urinate at the end of the procedure on the table. Most children need to be awake to perform this act.
5. **How long does the sedation last?** Answer: Literature states that the medication last approximately 8 hours. Generally we give instructions to monitor the child until the next day.
6. **When will we get the results of the test?** Answer: Your referring physician will get a hard copy of the results within 7 to 10 business days. If the test is positive for reflux then the Radiologist performing the test will notify your physician of the results that day.
7. **Can I take a copy of the film to my doctor?** Answer: If your physician has requested a copy of the film, please notify the radiology technologist that you will need a copy of the film to take to your physician.
8. **What if my child is allergic to red dye?** Answer: This won't affect the “dye” for the exam. This will only affect if oral sedation is used. An alternative sedation can be provided that does not contain red dye.
9. **Can my child eat if he or she is having sedation?** Answer: Liquids should be withheld four hours before the procedure, and solids should be withheld six hours before the procedure.
10. **If my child has a positive or active Urinary Tract Infection (UTI), can they still have the procedure?** Answer: Children who have an active UTI on the day of the test will not be able to have the procedure performed that day. The child should first, be treated for the UTI, second, return to his or her physician to confirm the absence of infection, and third, then schedule the procedure.
11. **Can my child still have the test if he has an upper respiratory infection, cold, flu or fever?** Answer: If the child is scheduled to have sedation and has an upper respiratory infection, a cold or flu, then the procedure will need to be rescheduled.
12. **How can I contact someone in the hospital to talk about this procedure?** Answer: Please feel free to call the VCUG nurses at (253) 403-1578, between the hours of 7:00am thru 3:30pm, Monday thru Friday.