

Imaging of the bladder with contrast medium for a child in New Childrens Hospital

Imaging of the bladder with contrast medium provides information on the function and structure of the urinary bladder, the urethra, and the sphincter, for example.

During the examination, the pelvis is scanned with an X-ray machine.

The examination is also called voiding cystourethrogram.

Please reserve 2 hours for the entire visit. The examination usually lasts for approximately 30–60 minutes.

Children who need urgent examination may be examined before your child.

Please see the arrival instructions for contact information if you have any questions about the examination.

Before the examination

To prevent urinary tract infections (UTI), the child's attending physician who referred the child to the examination will prescribe a course of antibiotics.

The physician will also instruct you how to use the medication.

If you have not received instructions regarding the antibiotics, please call the unit that referred your child before the examination date.

If your child is already on continuous antibiotics for UTI prevention, give the medication

- twice a day, in the morning and evening starting from the morning of the examination day.
- in the morning and evening for 3 days total, in other words on the examination day and the two following days.

Each morning and evening dose should be the same as the dose you have used previously.

Each morning and evening dose should be the same as the dose you have used previously.

It is important that the child receives the antibiotic in the morning of the examination day.

If the child has not taken the antibiotic, the examination cannot be performed.

During the examination

During the examination, the child will lie on an imaging table.

A doctor will insert a thin plastic tube, also known as a catheter, into the child's bladder via the urethra. The catheter will be coated with numbing lubricant gel before it is inserted.

The bladder will be filled with liquid contrast material through the catheter. The doctor will take X-ray images while the bladder is filled and while the child urinates.

The catheter will be removed when the imaging ends.

After the examination

You will receive the results of the examination from your child's attending physician.

If you do not know how to find out the results, please contact the outpatient clinic or ward that referred your child to this examination.

The child's attending physician will also instruct you if you need to continue the antibiotic medication for longer.

Other things to note

One adult may accompany the child during the examination.

However, you cannot be present for the examination if you are pregnant or suspect that you might be pregnant. You will not be charged for the examination.

Please cancel the appointment if you cannot come.