

# VCUG (Male)

Voiding Cystourethrogram



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
M E D I C I N E

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**ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**



Hi, my name is Max. I'm going to show you what it was like for me to have a VCUG procedure at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.

VCUG procedures help doctors understand how our body works on the inside when we pee. The doctor will look at pictures of your bladder, ureters, and kidneys to see how they are working.





On the day of my procedure, I arrived to the hospital with my mom. You might come with your mom, dad, or other family member. I walked through the entrance of the hospital and towards the Radiology Center. I waited in this area until it was my turn.

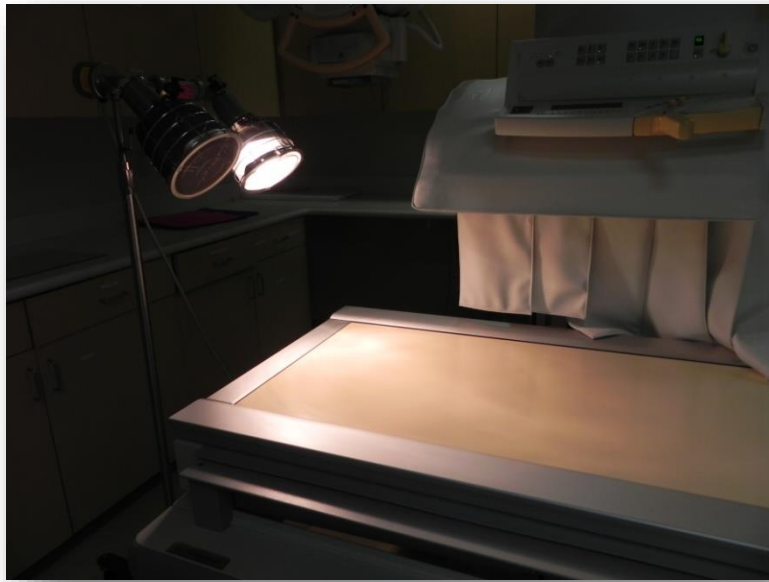


Your mom, dad, or family member will fill out paperwork at the front desk, so you might want to bring something to keep you busy. I brought my iPad, but other kids bring books, videogames, an iPod, or their favorite stuffed animal.

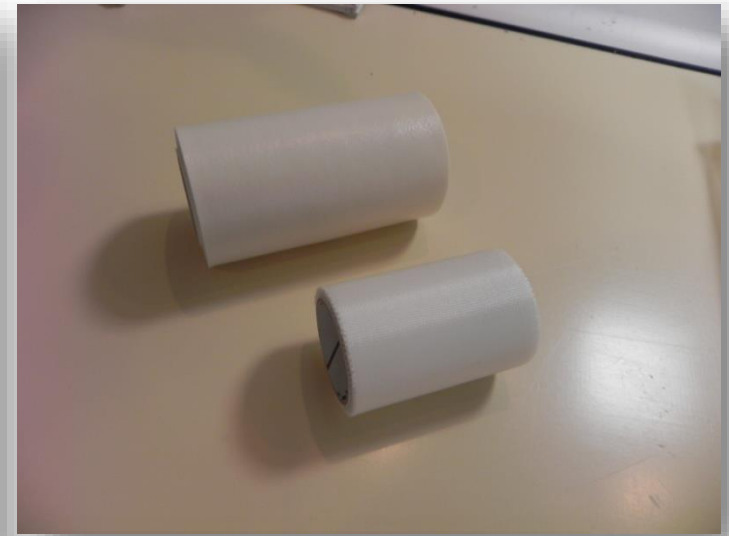




When the technologist called my name and brought my mom and I to the procedure room, I was given hospital pajamas to put on instead of my day clothes. I changed in the bathroom inside the procedure room.

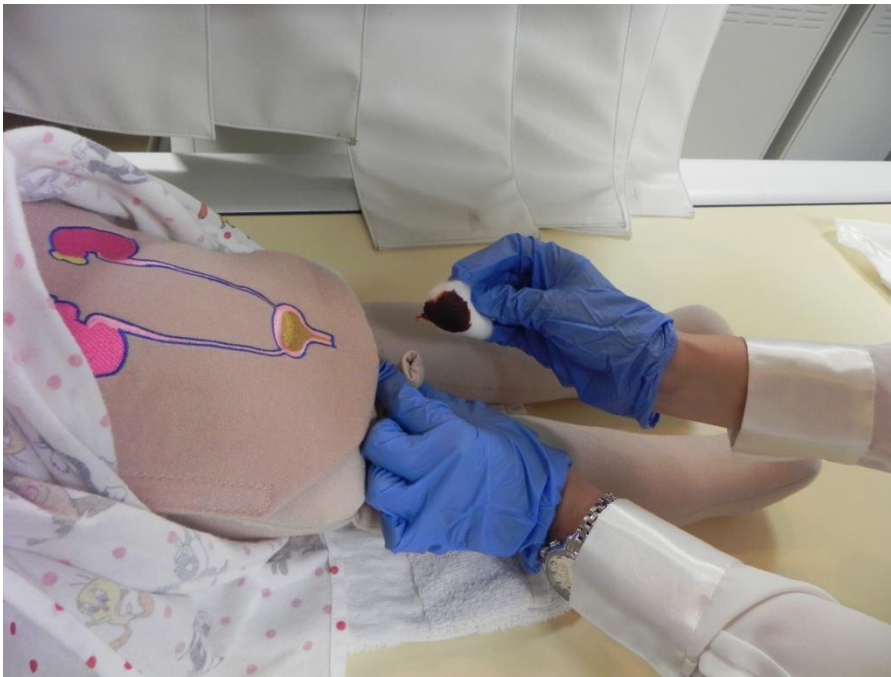


Once I had my hospital pajamas on, I laid on the x-ray table. The table was warm because the technologists turned on a bright light that warms the table. The technologist also gave me a pillow to rest my head. I got to take the pillow home with me!

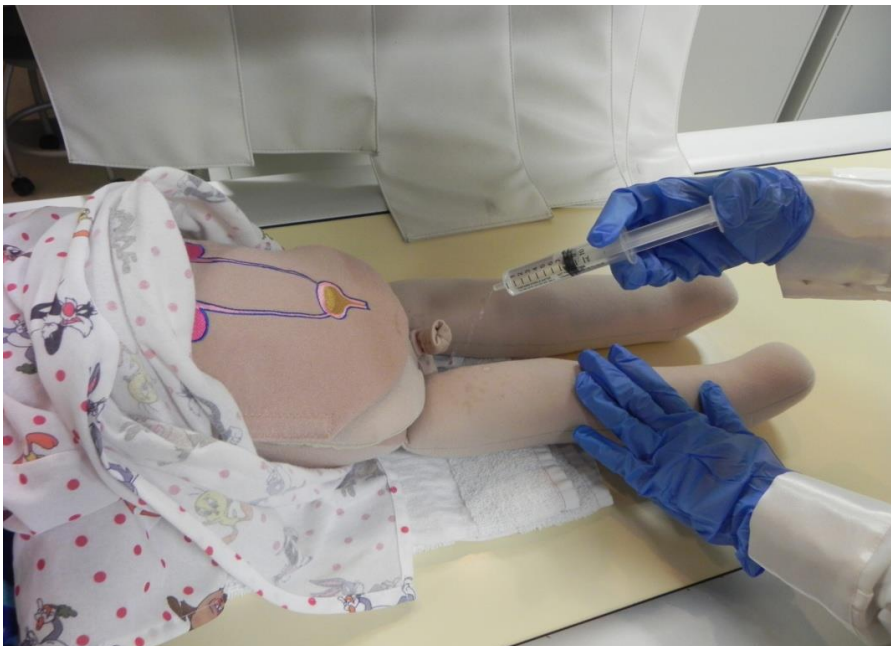


Once I was laying on the table, I noticed lots of supplies near my feet. I saw a flashlight, towels, a flexible tube (catheter), cotton balls, brown soap, water, a syringe, and tape.





First, the technologist wanted to make sure that I didn't have any germs on the area of my body where my pee comes out. The technologist used 3 cotton balls dipped in brown soap to clean my this area of my body. Next, the brown soap was rinsed off with water from a syringe—it looked like a hospital water gun. This part didn't hurt, but did feel cold.

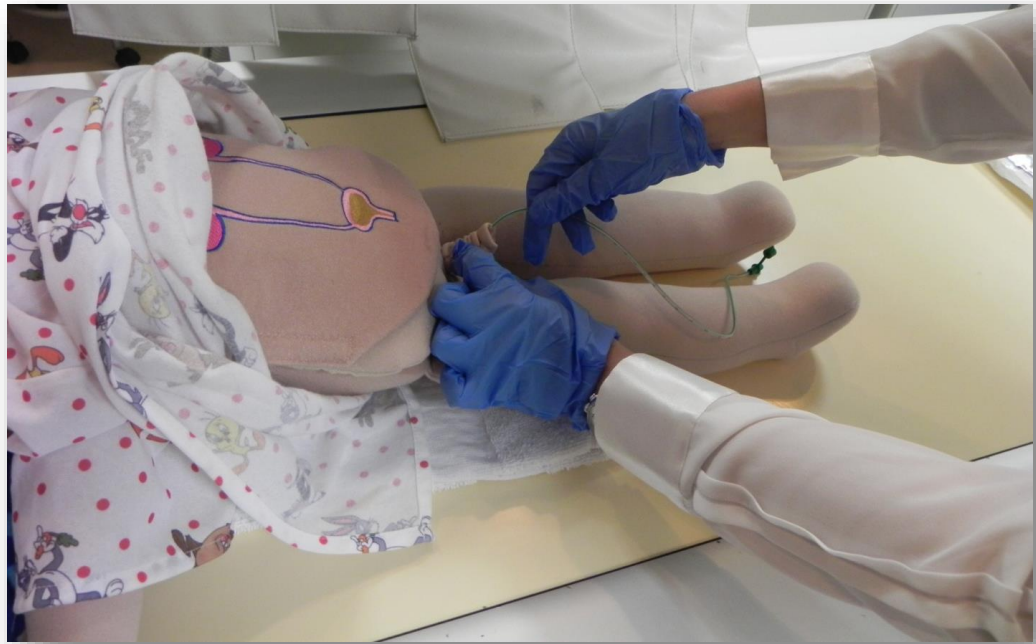






Next, the technologist asked me to take deep breaths. I used a pinwheel to help me. This helped make my muscles relax. Hospital helpers held my legs and my mom held my arms to help me lay still.

While I was blowing the pinwheel, the technologist put the flexible tube (catheter) with lubricant on it into the opening where my pee comes out. It reminded me of a spaghetti noodle. This tube lets “x-ray water” fill my bladder. It shouldn’t hurt once it’s inside, but it might feel different. The tube stayed in with the help of some tape. The x-ray water helps the camera take good pictures of my inside body parts, like my bladder, ureters, and kidneys.





While my bladder was getting filled with x-ray water, the PA (Physicians Assistant) moved the x-ray camera over my body. It was like a doll house or fort! The helpers moved my body side to side so the PA could get lots of pictures. My job was to hold my pee inside until the PA said it was time for me to go pee.





The x-ray machine did not touch my body, but it did make some clicking sounds when the PA took my pictures. My pictures showed up on a computer screen that was hanging from the ceiling.



Once the PA said it was time for me to pee, I peed on the x-ray table. When I peed, the flexible tube came out of my body--I didn't even feel it. It is okay to pee on the table because the doctor wants to see how our bodies work when we pee and the camera is too big to fit into the bathroom!

The technologists cleaned up the pee with towels.



I was finished with my VCUG procedure, so I changed back into my day clothes. The technologist gave me a prize before I left because I was so brave!



Questions?  
Contact Child Life  
(727) 767-4323