

URODYNAMIC TESTING

General Information

Urodynamic testing is a diagnostic tool to evaluate bladder function. With the use of fluoroscopy, we can visualize and measure:

- Bladder Capacity
- Bladder Emptying
- Bladder Pressure
- Urine Incontinence
- Shape and Size of Bladder

Who needs this study?

Children and young adults with a history of bladder dysfunction or spinal cord anomalies may undergo this diagnostic test. The results of the test help the physician choose the best strategy for management of the bladder for improved continence and protection of the kidneys.

Where is this test performed?

The test is generally an outpatient procedure. It is performed in our urodynamics suite.

How long does the test take?

The test will take approximately 20-30 minutes from start to finish.

Can I stay with my child?

We encourage a parent or family member to be with the patient during the procedure. We will offer our teens the option of having their parent wait outside, to honor their needs for privacy.

How is the test done?

Patients who are able to voluntarily empty their bladders will be asked to empty their bladder in the restroom. The patient is placed on an exam table. A urinary catheter is placed into the bladder either by the nurse, the parent or the patient. Another catheter is placed in the anus.

A liquid that looks like water will be used to fill the bladder. As the bladder is filled, pressure readings and video images of the bladder are obtained. Once the study is completed, the bladder is emptied and the catheters removed.

Is the test painful?

The level of discomfort depends on whether or not your child has intact sensation. In patients with sensation, there may be some minor discomfort associated with passing the catheter or a sensation of fullness and the urge to urinate as the bladder is filled. Most patients tolerate the procedure quite well.

When will I know the results?

The Urology Attending Physician and/or Nurse Practitioner is present during the study. He/she will review the findings and recommendations with you on completion of the study.