VCUG (Voiding Cystourethrogram)  
With General Anesthesia

A VCUG is a test that uses x-rays to take pictures of the bladder and the urinary tract.

When you arrive to the Center for Children’s Surgery, you and your child will be greeted by a nurse and taken to an EXAM ROOM.

- Your child will change into a gown.
- The nurse will weigh your child and check your child's temperature, heart rate, blood pressure.
- The nurse will get an update on his/her health history, including current medications, allergies and your child's last solid food and clear liquid intake.
- A child life specialist will be there to distract your child if needed.

Next, you and your child will meet with the anesthesiologist (doctor who gives you the general anesthesia) to discuss the general anesthesia plan.

After that, you will then be directed to the waiting area. The anesthesiologist, the child life specialist and the nurse will transfer your child to the PROCEDURE ROOM. The anesthesiologist will give your child medications and monitor him/her.

Next, the nurse will slide a soft tube called a catheter through your child’s urethra into his/her bladder and tape the tube in place.

Once the catheter is placed and taped, your child will be transferred to the POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU) where he/she will be monitored by the nurse. As your child wakens, you will be asked to come back to be with your child.

Now you are ready for the VCUG test. The pediatric radiology nurse and the child life specialist will come to see your child when he/she is waking up. Once awake, you and your child will be transferred to the x-ray room.
Before the VCUG, we ask that the parent wear a lead apron because the VCUG involves x-rays. Pregnant women must step out during the procedure.

A large camera mounted on the side of the table will take x-ray pictures. It will come close to your child but will not touch him/her.

During the VCUG, your child will lie on the x-ray table. The technologist will take a picture of the abdomen.

The nurse will attach the catheter to an IV tube that hangs from a bottle. The pediatric radiologist (doctor) will use the tube to fill your child’s bladder with contrast, which is a clear liquid that shows up on x-rays.

At this time, your child may feel pressure and the urge to pee. We will ask your child to hold his/her pee until the doctors tell him/her to pee.

Your child will need to hold very still while the pictures are taken. Parents are encouraged to help their child stay still.

As the bladder fills with contrast, the doctor will take more pictures. Your child will be asked to roll from side to side.

Once the bladder is full, your child will be asked to pee while lying on the table. More pictures are taken until the bladder is empty. While your child is peeing, the tube may slip out or the nurse will take it out.

If your child has not completely emptied his/her bladder, he/she may use the bathroom. Then return to the x-ray table for a final picture.

We can then help your child get cleaned up and dressed. The radiologist will explain the results to you.

After the VCUG

- Your child may experience stinging while going pee.
- Urine may be tinged pink.

Drinking extra fluids and giving your child a warm bath (plain water, no bubbles) will help relieve discomfort.
Preparation Tips

1. Explain to your child what will happen in words that he/she can understand.
2. Tell your child you will be there.
3. Bring items such as a blanket, stuffed animal, or pacifier to comfort your child.
4. A History and Physical Exam needs to be completed by your child’s physician within 30 days before the scheduled appointment.
5. Please have your physician send this document to the Pre Admission Department or bring a copy with you. If we do not have this document, we will need to re-schedule the procedure.

Prior to your appointment, you will receive a phone call from 1) Pre-admission testing department (PAT) and 2) Pediatric radiology team.

- The pre-admission testing team is available to answer your questions about the general anesthesia and arrival information.
- A pediatric radiology team, consisting of a pediatric radiologist, a technologist, a child life specialist and a nurse, is available to answer any questions regarding the VCUG and your child’s needs.

EATING INSTRUCTIONS

Meal/milk  STOP 8 hrs before the arrival time (or after midnight)
Formula  STOP 6 hrs before the arrival time
Breast milk  STOP 4 hrs before the arrival time
Clear Liquids  STOP 3 hrs before the arrival time

Department of Radiology: 315-464-5189
Nurse: 315-464-7405
Child Life Specialist: 315-464-7217