

About Your Voiding Cystogram

What You Need to Know and Do

A voiding cystogram is a detailed X-ray exam of your bladder. For this procedure, your bladder is filled with X-ray dye. The dye lets your bladder be seen more clearly on the X-ray images.

This test helps your doctor find bladder problems such as:

- kidney stones
- wounds or rupture of your bladder wall
- urinary tract infection
- blood clots
- tumors
- urethral issues.

What should I do before my voiding cystogram?

- Empty your bladder before the exam.
- Tell your doctor if you:
 - have any allergies to X-ray dye
 - have a bladder infection
 - are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- Follow any other instructions you are given.

What happens during my test?

- The exam will take 30 to 45 minutes.
- You will change into a hospital gown and lie on an exam table.
- A thin tube (catheter) will be put into your urethra up to your bladder. You will feel pressure.
- The dye will slowly be put through the catheter into your bladder. As your bladder fills with this liquid, you will feel the need to urinate. Tell the doctor when this becomes uncomfortable.
- X-rays are taken of your full bladder.
- The catheter will be removed. You will then be told to empty your bladder by urinating into a bedpan or urinal while more X-rays are taken.

What happens after my test?

- You may feel some burning when you urinate the first few times after the test. Drink plenty of water after the exam to help flush the dye out of your body.
- Your doctor will discuss your test results with you, and recommend more testing or treatment if you need it.
- Call your doctor right away if you have:
 - blood in your urine, after you have gone to the bathroom 3 times
 - signs of infection, such as chills, fever, rapid heartbeat, or fast breathing.