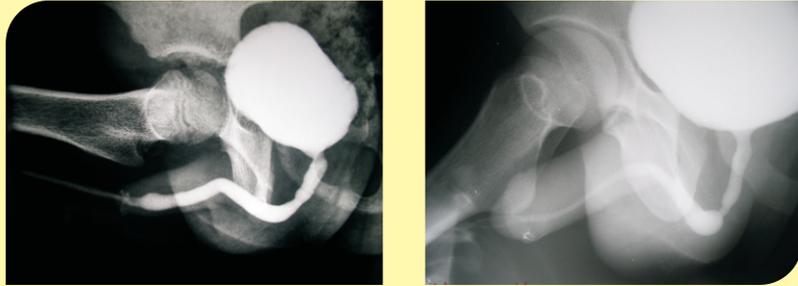


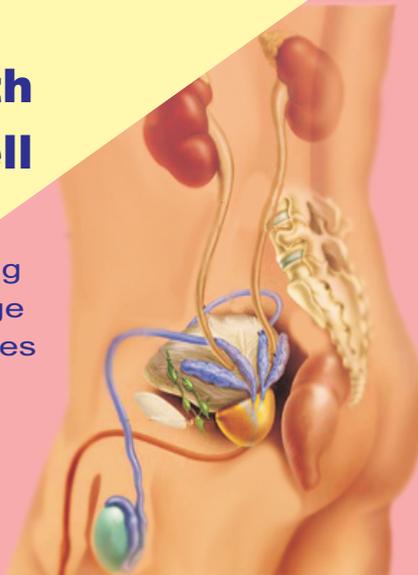
Illustrative pictures of MCU



UroHealth Education Cell

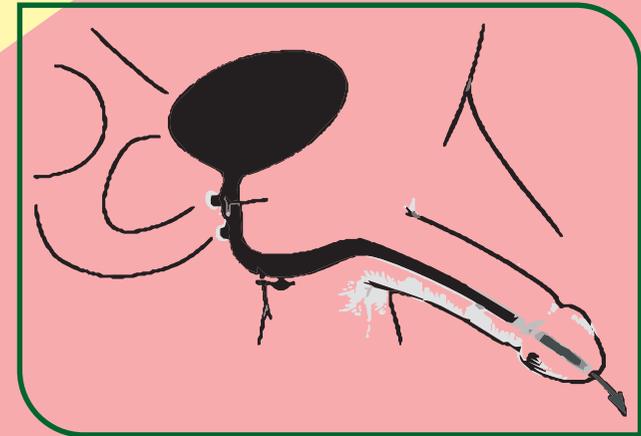
A cell dedicated to disseminating scientifically validated knowledge to patients and medical colleagues for improving standards of UroHealth Care

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MICTURATING CYSTO-URETHROGRAM (MCU)

All that you need to know



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What is this test?

This is a specialized type of radiography wherein radio opaque contrast is filled inside the urinary bladder and as the patient passes urine an X-ray picture is taken to see abnormalities in structure and voiding function of urinary bladder as well as urethra.

When to do this test?

- ◆ A combined radiographic study of urinary bladder and urethra is often needed to obtain information on changes in mucosal characteristics as well as capacity of urinary bladder before and after voiding.
- ◆ Common diseases where MCU is often performed include – Posterior urethral valves and Vesicoureteric reflux in children; stricture urethra, bladder diverticulum, neurogenic bladder in adults and post prostatectomy bladder neck contracture or urethro-cystocele in elderly subjects.

How is this test performed?

- ◆ You will be asked to report after you have emptied your bowels adequately. For this, you may be asked to take some laxative and gas absorbing medicine one night before.
- ◆ You will be required to sign a formal consent for the test.
- ◆ The test is done in full privacy and with assistance of a lady nurse or attendant in case of ladies or girls.
- ◆ You will be required to improve local hygiene of genital organs before the test. The hair around genitals should be shaved or at least trimmed. The genitals should be thoroughly washed by soap and water. Males should take special care by retracting their foreskin of penis and cleaning all smegma collected underneath.
- ◆ You will be asked to lie on an X-ray table after baring your genitals in a specific oblique position or sometimes you may be made to sit on micturition chair attached to X-ray table. It appears cumbersome and clumsy, but if you cooperate with the technician and follow his/her instructions without undue anxiety and reservation, it is all fairly simple.
- ◆ You will be given an injection of suitable antibiotic. If you are already taking an appropriate antibiotic tablet or capsules, the doctor may decide otherwise.

- ◆ For obtaining the X-ray picture, the radioopaque contrast needs to be filled inside the urinary bladder. In those individuals where urethra is passable, most doctors prefer to pass a slender urethral catheter and fill the bladder. Some patients already have a catheter placed inside the bladder through lower abdominal wall (called suprapubic catheter). In them, it is easy to fill contrast in bladder through this preplaced catheter. Rarely, if urethral catheter can not be passed and suprapubic catheter is not in place, the contrast is filled in bladder by making a direct puncture in bladder through a point 3-4 finger breath below the navel. The technician or doctor doing the test is well aware of all these options and you just need to follow his/her advice.

- ◆ As your bladder is filled up with contrast, you will experience a desire to pass urine. As your desire reaches its peak, notify it to the technician.
- ◆ You will then be signaled by the technician to start passing urine and as your urinary stream starts flowing out a series of X-ray pictures may be taken in different views. Please extend your cooperation.
- ◆ The more you are relaxed, better will be your voiding and more meaningful will be the test.
- ◆ Once you have finished passing urine (or contrast in present case) and you feel that you have passed all that you easily can, another film may be taken to ascertain post void residual urine in bladder.
- ◆ After the test is over and after you have verified from the doctor that no more films need to be taken, drink some liquid or plain simple water so that you pass urine more often and contrast remaining in bladder is washed away.
- ◆ You should leave the X-ray centre only after you have passed urine once again after the test. Please take instructions from doctor regarding medication after the test.

What may happen after the test?

- ◆ You may experience some shivering and develop mild fever. This is more common in children and in patients of neurogenic bladder.
- ◆ You may experience frequent desire to urinate with some urinary burning, or even pass blood stained urine.
- ◆ There may be some suprapubic or flank discomfort.
- ◆ All these things are transient and disappear on their own by taking the prescribed medicines but if they persist, inform your doctor.