



Pediatric Urology

Uroflow with EMG

The purpose of the urinary system is to remove wastes from the body by making urine (pee). Two kidneys remove waste from the blood and produce urine. The urine flows from the kidneys to the bladder through tubes called ureters. The bladder is like a big muscular bag. Urine is held in the bladder by a strong band of muscle called the sphincter muscle. When the bladder is full, it sends a message to the brain. The brain decides whether it is a good time for the bladder to empty. If and when it is, the brain sends a message down to the sphincter muscle to tell it to relax. The urine then flows out of the body through a tube called the urethra.

What is a Uroflow study?

Your child will be asked to urinate into a commode (a portable toilet) connected to a computer. He or she may sit or stand, whichever is more comfortable. Your child must not have a bowel movement (poop) or put toilet paper into this toilet.

How can we prepare for the Uroflow study?

If your child is having a uroflow study, give them plenty to drink up to 1 hour before you come for the test. Or if your appointment is in the early morning, have your child try to hold morning urination until test time. Your child should arrive with a full bladder.

What is an EMG?

The EMG is a way to record how certain muscles work. The EMG will show how well your child's sphincter muscles are working with the bladder muscle. If your child needs this test, it is done at the same time as the Uroflow test.

How is an EMG done?

Several electrodes (small sticky pads that measure muscle activity) will be placed on your child's skin. Here is how the electrodes will be placed:

*Two electrodes will be placed on either side of your child's buttocks

*One electrode is placed on your child's thigh or hip

These electrodes will be connected to a computer to record muscle activity. The electrodes do not hurt. Once the test is over the electrodes are easily removed.