

Urodynamics Testing

For patients at UW Medical Center - Northwest

UW Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER

This handout explains how urodynamics testing is done and how to prepare for it. It also gives information your insurance company will need.



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phone camera
for a digital copy
of this handout.*

What is urodynamics testing?

Urodynamics testing is an exam of the urinary tract, including the bladder and urethra. This exam helps doctors diagnose and treat urinary problems.

Why do I need this exam?

Your doctor may want you to have this test done to help us treat your urinary problems. You may:

- Have *incontinence* (cannot control urination)
- Have *retention* (cannot fully empty your bladder of urine)
- Get bladder infections often
- Need to urinate often

How is the test done?

- First, a nurse will insert a small *catheter* (a tube about the size of a spaghetti noodle) into your bladder and another catheter into your rectum. This may cause some discomfort. Most patients handle this easily.
- We will then fill your bladder with either water or a *contrast solution* through the bladder catheter. The catheters will give us pressure readings to help us see how your bladder is working.
- If contrast is used, we will take X-ray pictures of your bladder as it fills up.
- At the end of the test, we will ask you to empty your bladder.



Talk with your healthcare provider if you have any questions about urodynamics testing after reading this handout.

How do I prepare for this test?

- Call the clinic if you:
 - Have mobility problems or other special needs that will affect the day of your test.
 - May have a bladder or kidney infection. We may need to postpone your test.
- Make sure the appointment is at a time that works for you. **It is very important that you arrive on time for the test.** If you arrive late, we may need to reschedule your test for another day.

- If you take any medicines for your bladder, ask your doctor if you need to stop taking these 5 days before your urodynamics test. Some of these medicines are:
 - Detrol (tolterodine)
 - Levsinex (hyoscyamine)
 - Dibenzyline
 - Minipress (prazosin)
 - Ditropan (oxybutynin)
 - Myrbetriq
 - Enablex (darifenacin hydrobromide)
 - Oxytrol Patch
 - Flomax (tamsulosin)
 - Sanctura (trospium chloride)
 - Imipramine (tofranil)
 - Toviaz
 - Levbid
 - Vesicare (solifenacin succinate)
- You do **not** need to stop taking antibiotics or your other medicines.

On the Day of Your Test

- You may eat and drink normally.
- Stop drinking fluids 1 hour before your appointment.
- Please come to your appointment with a comfortably full bladder.
 - If your bladder feels too full, please tell someone at the front desk.
 - You do not need to have a full bladder if you have a catheter.
- You may do your usual activities before this test. You can also drive yourself to the appointment and home again.
- If you were asked to keep a voiding diary, please bring it with you.
- Plan on being at this appointment for about 1 hour.

Does insurance pay for this test?

We typically will check with your insurance company for authorization for this procedure but are not able to determine your out-of-pocket costs. Please check with your insurance to find out what portion you will be responsible for. When calling your insurance company, be sure to tell them that this test will be an **outpatient procedure**.

Your insurance provider may ask for the codes, called CPT codes, that describe this test. These are the codes for urodynamics testing:

- **51726** Complex CMG (cystometrogram)
- **51797** Intra-abdominal voiding pressure studies
- **51741** Complex uroflowmetry
- **51600** Injection for cystography or voiding urethrocytography
- **51728** Complex CMG, with voiding pressure profile studies

Please talk with your provider if you have any questions or concerns.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

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Call 206-668-5215 weekdays
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☐ UWMC - Northwest Pelvic Health Center:

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Call 206.668.4477 weekdays
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