Uroflow Tests

What is a uroflow test?
A uroflow test helps your child’s provider learn more about how much your child’s bladder holds. It also measures how fast and how long pee (urine) takes to come out.

How is the test done?
• During the test, your child will pee into a special toilet that is connected to a computer.
• Your child can sit or stand, whatever is more comfortable.

What is an EMG uroflow test?
An EMG (electromyogram) is a test that uses special stickers to measure how your child’s muscles work when they pee (urinate). An EMG uroflow test is when doctors do an EMG and a uroflow at the same time.

How is the test done?
• Before the test, a medical assistant will put 2 stickers on the inside of your child’s buttocks, near their anus. A third sticker will go on your child’s knee.
• A parent may put on the stickers, if that is more comfortable for your child.
• During the test, the stickers measure the electrical activity in the muscle when your child pees.
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What is a bladder ultrasound?
A bladder ultrasound measures the amount of pee in your child’s bladder after your child urinates. Ultrasounds use sound waves to view and make pictures of parts of the body. This test is done after a uroflow test, if needed.

How is the test done?
- A medical assistant puts gel on the skin of your child’s lower belly (lower abdomen/pelvic area).
- The medical assistant will then move a small wand (transducer) over the gel. The transducer uses high-frequency sound waves to send messages, which the computer makes into images. For more information about how to prepare your child for an ultrasound, read our handout “Ultrasound” www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE667.pdf.
- A bladder ultrasound usually takes about 15 minutes.

How do I prepare my child for the test?
- Talk to your child about the test, so they know what to expect.
- Encourage your child to drink plenty of water for 1 hour before the test.
- Do not allow your child to go pee for 1 hour before the test.