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YOU HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR URODYNAMICS....WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Urodynamics is a group of tests that allow your doctor to evaluate how your lower urinary tract works. The lower urinary tract includes the **bladder** which stores urine and the **urethra** which is a tube that carries urine from your bladder to the outside.

Urodynamics helps identify specific problems related to :

- Controlling your urine
- Not emptying your bladder completely
- Feeling the frequent and/or urgent need to urinate
- Weak or intermittent (stop and start) urine flow
- Frequent urinary tract infections

There are several components that make up urodynamic testing.

1. Patients urinate into a special commode chair or funnel that is hooked up to a computer. This measures how much urine comes out and how fast. Your results are then compared to normal parameters to see how you did. After this is done, an ultrasound will be performed to see how well you emptied your bladder. This test is called a **uroflow**.
2. Next, a small catheter is placed in the bladder and rectum and patch electrodes are placed on the pelvic muscles. The bladder will then be filled slowly with water and the pressure of the bladder muscle and its response to being filled will be measured. At the same time, an estimate of the pressures outside the bladder will be measured by the catheter placed in the rectum. This test is called a **cystometrogram (CMG)**.
3. As the bladder fills, the different pressure measurements are recorded and the patient is asked questions about the way their bladder feels as it is filling. This should not be painful. Patients will be asked to cough or bear down to determine if there is any leakage and if so, at what pressure it occurs. This is called leak point pressure, and may be important in helping your doctor determine who best to treat you.
4. When bladder is full, the patient will be asked to urinate in the special commode chair again, this time with the small tubes in place. This allows your doctor to examine the bladder pressure needed to generate the flow of urine. This test is called a **pressure flow study**.

After the tests are completed, you will have an appointment with your doctor to discuss the results. Be sure to take the antibiotics prescribed for you after the procedure to prevent infection.