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WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT URODYNAMIC STUDIES?

WHAT ARE URODYNAMIC STUDIES?

Urodynamic means the study of the pressure and flow in the lower urinary tract, the bladder and the tube through which you pass urine, called the urethra.

Urodynamic studies show what happens to the lower urinary tract when it is filling and emptying with saline.

WHY DO I NEED URODYNAMIC STUDIES?

It should be emphasised that NOT everyone with bladder problems needs urodynamic studies. They are most useful where: -

- There may be a mixture of symptoms or uncertain symptoms.
- An operation is being considered and the doctor wants to make sure it is necessary.
- Previous treatment has not improved the problem.

The result of the Urodynamic Studies will form part of a total assessment of your bladder problems and will enable your doctor to determine the best form of treatment for you.

THE TEST

- On any 3 days prior to the test you will be required to fill a frequency-volume chart.
- On the day of your test you will need to arrive at the clinic with a comfortably full bladder.
- In order to protect your clothes during the test, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- You will be asked to empty your bladder on a special commode that measures the flow of urine.
- After emptying your bladder you will move to a couch where you will be examined by Dr Frazer.
- Small catheters will be inserted into your bladder. These catheters are used to both fill the bladder and measure bladder pressure during the test. A further catheter is inserted into the back passage (rectum) to measure the total pressure within your abdomen. The placement of these catheters is not usually painful.
- The bladder is filled with a sterile solution of salty water and you will be asked about bladder sensations when this is taking place. You will be asked to cough several times.
- An ultrasound examination of the bladder will be performed when the bladder is full.
- You will be asked to move back to the special commode from the couch at the end of the examination and will empty your bladder via the small catheter in private.

AFTER THE TEST

- The catheters will be removed and you will change back into normal clothes. Dr Frazer will then explain the examination findings to you and discuss possible treatment options.

Website: <http://www.malcolmfrazer.com.au>