

Urodynamics

What are urodynamic tests?

Urodynamic tests are used in the diagnostic investigation of people complaining of urinary incontinence and other bladder problems. The aim is to demonstrate whether the patient is suffering from incontinence and identify the type of incontinence and bladder problem affecting the patient.

Who should have a urodynamic test?

Any person suffering from significant urinary symptoms where symptoms are confusing and conservative treatment has not yielded satisfactory results. Sometimes it may be required as a first investigation before starting any form of treatment especially if the problem has been long lasting.

What does it involve?

Urodynamic tests usually involve the measurement of urine flows in a special toilet. They may also involve the insertion of a catheter into the urethra and either the vagina or rectum.

A range of reactions are measured, including pressures in the urethra, bladder and abdomen, electrical nerve functions and urinary flow rates. The test always includes a screen for a possible urinary infection prior to starting and a check for residual urine as well.

The test may be carried out lying down or standing up or both, and may require the patient to cough on a number of occasions.

Who performs the test?

The test will be performed by a consultant and a specialist nurse from the Birmingham and Solihull Bladder Clinic.

Is anything else involved?

Yes, sometimes special radiological screening equipment is used to capture the appearance of the bladder when it is full or if there is leaking of urine. A female patient should alert the clinician who is performing the test if she is pregnant.

Where will it be performed?

The tests are performed on the premises of the X ray Department at the Priory Hospital and the patient will be sent the details of where to attend in advance of the appointment date.