

URODYNAMIC STUDY (UDS)

Urodynamic is a test of the function of your bladder

A Urodynamic study provides objective data regarding your bladder's capacity, compliance (elasticity) sensations, ability to store and also ability to empty. It also provides information regarding the condition of the urethral sphincter. This valuable information is interpreted by your Physician or Nurse Practitioner to help determine the best treatment options for your specific condition. The test is performed in the office, taking approximately one hour.

Upon arrival into the urodynamic suite, a study of your bladder's ability to empty will be performed. You will be asked to sit or stand at a special chair. This chair has a sensor under it to measure important information. After you have voided in privacy, an assessment will be made of your bladder's ability to empty.

The next part of the study is referred to as the "filling phase." A small catheter is placed into the bladder and another into either the vagina or rectum. These tiny catheters contain sensors to record information. The bladder is then filled with sterile fluid through the catheter. This is the portion of the study that records your bladder's capacity, compliance and sensations. It also will tell your doctor or APRN if your bladder has signs of being "overactive." You may be asked to cough and bear down during this portion of the study. The data will be interpreted to determine your bladder's ability to "store" and will give information regarding the cause of any incontinence. Measurements of the strength/tone of the urethra sphincter are also obtained.

The last portion of the study is referred to as the "emptying phase." This allows your physician or Nurse Practitioner to determine the mechanism and the ability to empty your bladder. The information from your urodynamic study and cystourethroscopy along with findings from your physical examination will be analyzed to determine the best treatment course.