

WoSCoR

West of Scotland Paediatric Complex
Respiratory Managed Clinical Network

Videofluoroscopy for children



What happens after the videofluoroscopy?

The videofluoroscopy speech and language therapist will write a report and send it to the people involved with your child. The results will be discussed with you face-to-face or over the phone once the report has been received.

Contact us

You can contact your local speech and language therapist at:

ATTACH LABEL WITH CONTACT DETAILS

Acknowledgements:

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Speech and Language Therapists

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What is Videofluoroscopy?

Videofluoroscopy is a video X-ray.

We make a video of your child when they are eating and drinking to see how the muscles in their mouth and throat move food and drink around before and during swallowing.

A videofluoroscopy shows us exactly where the food and drink goes. It can be difficult to tell this just from watching your child eat at an ordinary mealtime.

At the videofluoroscopy, we add a barium solution to the food your child is eating. This allows us to see where the food and drink is going. This is not harmful to your child.

What does barium taste like?

Barium has a mild flavour and chalky quality which is usually masked by the flavour of food and drink.

Why does my child need a Videofluoroscopy?

People need a videofluoroscopy for different reasons.

Usually, it is because we need to check whether food or drink is going down the wrong way into the airway. This can be dangerous.

Your child's speech and language therapist can tell you more about why your child needs this test.

Further information:

Is videofluoroscopy harmful?

A videofluoroscopy is an X-ray so there is some radiation, but exposure is kept to a minimum. People who are not having the X-ray are protected by lead aprons or will be behind a screen.

Where does a videofluoroscopy take place?

Depending on where you live in the West of Scotland, your child will have their videofluoroscopy at either:

Royal Hospital for Children
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
Govan Road
Glasgow, G51 4TF

Royal Hospital for Sick Children
Edinburgh
9 Sciennes Road
Edinburgh, EH9 1LF

Your child's speech and language therapist will confirm the appointment details.

Who will be there?

Radiology staff (a consultant and a nurse), a hospital speech and language therapist and, if they are free to attend, your child's own speech and language therapist, will be there when your child has their videofluoroscopy.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

Please bring the food and drink that your child likes and that they normally eat, along with their usual feeding utensils (for example, fork, spoon, cup and so on). We will mix a little of the food and drink with barium so it needs to be a food that can be mixed with powder or liquid. You can discuss this and the seat your child will need for the day with your child's speech and language therapist.

Can my child have anything to eat before the videofluoroscopy?

Your child must be hungry enough to eat and drink during the videofluoroscopy.