Anorectal Manometry Study for your child

What is an Anorectal Manometry Study and what does it tell us? This test checks the nerves and muscles in the anus and rectum to see if they are working as they should.

This test checks your child’s muscle pressures. It also tells us whether or not your child’s muscles used for pooping are working like they should.

This test is done when a child has had problems with constipation or stool soiling.

Getting ready for the test: If this is the only test being done your child may have a light breakfast.

Your child needs to have an empty rectum for this test. We need to know that your child had a bowel movement the morning of the test. We need you to give your child a bisacodyl suppository the night before the test, or a saline enema the morning of the test. Please call the week before your child’s scheduled appointment 1-608-263-6420 for directions.

When you come for the test we ask if your child had a bowel movement. We ask because if there is stool in the rectum the tube may not slide into place for the test to be done.

How is the study done? A tube the size of a straw is passed into the rectum. The tube has a balloon on the tip. The tube is connected to a machine and computer.

This test will feel like having a rectal temperature taken. In order to get the most information about your child’s pooping dynamics, your child needs to be able to cooperate and follow these simple commands:

- Rest, squeeze, bear down, push out.
- Telling us when feeling pressure from the balloon.

If this test is not being done in the operating room you may stay with your child the whole time.

- The tube and balloon is put into your child’s rectum a short distance.
- The person doing the test will hold the tube in place.
- During the study we record different events including: pressures, sensations, and muscle control.
- Small amounts of air are put into and taken out of the balloon throughout the test.
- Your child is asked questions and given simple commands to do during the test such as: rest, squeeze, bear down, push out.
After the anorectal manometry part of the test is done, your child may need to do another type of test called a balloon expulsion test. This test gives us information about your child’s ability to pass a stool and the coordination of the abdominal and pelvic floor muscles.

**How do I find out the test results?** The day of the test early results may be discussed with you during and after the test. It may take up to 2 weeks for the doctor to review the test recordings and have the final results. Your will be called if the final results are different from the early results. A letter will be sent to your primary doctor and the doctor who requested the test.

**ALERT:** Call your child’s doctor, nurse, or GI center at (608) 263-6420 if you have any questions or concerns. Call if your child has a latex allergy or special health care needs that were not covered by this information.