

Anorectal Manometry

Anorectal manometry is often done to help find the cause of your child's symptoms, such as constipation, stool accidents, or other bowel problems. This test analyzes how your child's muscles and nerves work inside the rectum.

During an anorectal manometry, your child will be asked to lay on their side while the doctor places a small, soft, flexible tube into the rectum. The catheter consists of circumferentially spaced pressure sensors, which provide spatiotemporal pressurization data of the anus and rectum. A tiny balloon is attached to the end of the catheter. Your child will be asked to squeeze with the catheter inserted into the rectum, and pressures of the anal sphincter and rectum are recorded. They will then be asked to bear down or simulate evacuation on the catheter, to assess for pelvic floor dyssynergia. Pelvic dyssynergia refers to the paradoxical contraction of the anus, or failed relaxation of the anus with an increase in rectal pressure. The catheter balloon is then filled with small amounts of air to assess for the presence of a rectoanal inhibitory reflex (RAIR), which is a relaxation of the internal anal sphincter with distension of the rectum.

This procedure takes approximately 30 minutes. Once complete, the catheter is removed your child can resume normal activities

