



PATIENT INFORMATION

Flexible Cystoscopy

What is a Cystoscopy?

Cystoscopy is a diagnostic examination that enables the surgeon to view the inside of your bladder using a narrow flexible tube called a cystoscope.

Why is it necessary?

The procedure is used to investigate the cause of urinary symptoms such as urgency, frequency, poor urinary flow or blood in the urine. The cystoscopy should allow an accurate diagnosis to be made which in turn will enable your specialist to determine the best treatment plan for you.

What does the procedure involve?

On average the cystoscopy takes 10 -15 minutes. In the majority of cases, it is carried out under a local anaesthetic in the outpatients department or as a day-case procedure. This means that you will be discharged home the same day.

The cystoscope is inserted into the urethra, which is the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the exterior. It is then used to fill the bladder with fluid. The doctor is then able to examine the lining of the bladder through the cystoscope. In some circumstances, the doctor will take a small sample of tissue, called a biopsy.

What are the risks?

Cystoscopy is a minimally-invasive procedure but occasional complications may occur. The risks are:

- Excessive bleeding if a biopsy is taken.
- Perforation of the bladder wall.
- Infection.

Will it be painful?

Before the examination a qualified member of staff will insert a local anaesthetic gel into your urethra, which can cause some discomfort initially. There may be some discomfort when the cystoscope is first inserted but this will soon pass. As you will be awake throughout the procedure, you will be given every opportunity to tell the medical staff if you are in any pain or discomfort. They will do whatever they can to alleviate this.

What should I do to prepare for the procedure?

Please bring a urine specimen with you for the appointment.

What to expect afterwards?

After the procedure, your urine may contain blood and you may experience some discomfort when passing urine. This should settle within a day or so.

You will be told to drink extra fluids, at least 1 – 2 litres of water, over the next 24 hours. Mild painkillers should be sufficient to help alleviate any discomfort. However, if you have increasingly blood-stained urine, bladder pain or a burning sensation when you pass urine, you should seek medical help and contact your GP.

Follow-up?

The specialist will discuss any initial findings from the cystoscopy with you and make recommendations for any further investigations if necessary

For more information

If you have any questions about the procedure or about the information in this leaflet, please contact:

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