

Department of Urology

Cystoscopy under General/Spinal Anaesthetic

What is it?

A cystoscopy is an inspection of the bladder and urethra (water pipe) using a thin telescope (cystoscope), which is passed along the water pipe into the bladder. This allows the surgeon to inspect the lining of the urethra and bladder.

Why is it performed?

There are several reasons why your doctor may wish you to have a cystoscopy. You may have one of the following: -

- Blood in the urine
- Repeat urinary tract infections
- Difficulty in passing urine.

This procedure is used to diagnose problems within the bladder or urethra. Often a specimen is taken if there are any abnormal areas seen (a biopsy). This tissue is sent to the laboratory for analysis.

The operation is performed under general or spinal anaesthetic. The surgery takes 5 - 15 minutes.

What preparations should be made?

There are no special preparations, but you will be invited to a pre-operative assessment clinic where the nurse will check that your general health is satisfactory.

What happens afterwards?

After your operation you will be taken back to the ward, and you will be able to eat and drink as soon as you feel able.

You may have a drip in your arm to keep you hydrated, which will be stopped when you are eating and drinking normally.

You may have a catheter tube into your bladder, which will be removed 12-24 hours after your operation.

You may experience urethral / bladder discomfort and painkillers will be given for this.

You are advised not to drive for a minimum of 24 hours after the operation.

What are the possible complications?

A little bleeding is common for 1-2 days; if it is persistent or is heavy you should seek advice from your GP.

Antibiotics may be given at the time of your operation. Should you experience any burning or stinging when passing urine drink plenty of fluid, but if it persists contact your GP.

At Home

Your doctors will discuss the results of your cystoscopy with you, any specimens taken during the operation will be analysed and the results made available to your consultant after 10 days. If necessary a follow appointment will be made.

You can return to work when you feel able, and comfortable.

Points of contact

If you have any other questions, or require more information prior to your treatment, please contact your consultant secretary via the hospital switchboard 01603 286286

Please can you bring all your current medication with you when you are admitted to hospital.

This sheet describes a surgical procedure. It has been given to you because it relates to your condition and may help you understand it better. It does not necessarily describe your problem exactly. If you have any questions please ask your doctor.

