

Cystoscopy

A thin telescope (cystoscope) is passed into your bladder to enable inspection of the inside of your bladder. Sometimes a biopsy may be taken, and the piece of tissue sent to the laboratory.

Cystoscopy can either be done using local anaesthetic with you awake or it can be done under general anaesthetic (asleep). Your doctor will discuss with you the reason for choosing the type of anaesthetic.

Under local anaesthetic, a small amount of local anaesthetic gel is all that is needed. This gel is carefully inserted into your urethra (water pipe) a few minutes before passing a flexible thin telescope. It will feel a little uncomfortable only. You will be aware that your bladder is being filled with warm solution. You should tell your doctor if your bladder gets uncomfortably full.

Under general anaesthetic, the technique is similar but either a flexible or rigid telescope will be used.

Before the procedure

You will be asked to give a urine sample for routine testing. Please bring a fresh urine sample with you if you wish.

After the procedure

Discomfort

There may be a small amount of discomfort, which settles in a few hours. Paracetamol tablets should be all that is required. Passing urine may burn or sting, this should settle. There is a small risk of urine infection after this procedure. It is important to drink plenty of water.

Bleeding

There may be slight blood staining of your urine, which will settle over a few days.

Activity

If you have had a general anaesthetic, you should not drive for 48 hours, but you may return to full activity after this time. If you have had a local anaesthetic, there are no restrictions.

Follow up

This varies and you will be advised of these arrangements before you leave the hospital.