



CYSTOSCOPY

EXAMINATION OF THE BLADDER

What is cystoscopy?

Cystoscopy is a procedure which enables the doctor to look inside the bladder and the urethra. A thin flexible tube with a viewing camera is inserted via the urethra and into the bladder. The bladder is slowly filled with sterile water. The doctor is then able to move the camera around the bladder and can see everything in the bladder including the lining.

It is more likely than other tests, like urine tests or ultrasound, in up picking problems such as:

- stones
- surgical materials (from previous surgery)
- bleeding
- tumours
- structural abnormalities.

The procedure can be done in the Ambulatory Gynaecology Service (AGS) or Operating Theatre, depending on your symptoms. Your doctor will recommend where is best for you.

About the test

- Regardless of where the procedure is done, it will take approximately 30 minutes.
- If the procedure is done in the AGS you will be given a local anaesthetic gel to numb the urethra; you will be awake.
- If the procedure is done in the Operating Theatre you will be given a general anaesthetic. If necessary, the doctor may take a biopsy.
- Your bladder will be emptied with a catheter and a urine sample will be collected for testing.
- When the camera is inserted it can be uncomfortable; however, most women do tolerate it well.
- There is a small risk of developing a urinary tract infection. Please drink extra fluid after the procedure. If urinary symptoms persist consult your local doctor or the emergency department immediately.
- When the procedure is performed in AGS after the test the doctor will discuss the findings with you.
- When the procedure is performed in the Operating Theatre a follow-up appointment is often needed because you have had an anaesthetic.

Are there any risks?

The risk of complications with this procedure is low, they include:

- urinary tract infection
- bleeding
- injury to the bladder or urethra
- complications after a general anaesthetic.

If you would like more specific information about the level of risk speak to your doctor or anaesthetist who can provide you with more detailed information.

Informed consent

This Patient Information contains detailed information about a surgical procedure. Its purpose is to explain to you as openly and clearly as possible the procedures and risks involved before you decide whether or not to proceed.

Please read this information carefully. Feel free to ask questions. You may also wish to discuss the procedure with a relative or friend or your local health worker.

If you need more detailed information your doctor or nurse can recommend further reading.

Once you understand the surgical procedure and risks, and if you agree to proceed, you will be asked to sign the Consent Form (for procedures undertaken in the Operating Theatre). By signing the Consent Form, you indicate that you understand the information and that you give your consent.

Your surgeon will be happy to answer any questions you have, and can give you more specific advice.

Please keep a copy of this Patient Information for your record.

For more information and advice

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