

Department of Urology

What is a cystoscopy?

A cystoscopy is a diagnostic investigation. It involves a doctor placing a telescope known as a cystoscope into your bladder through the urethra (water pipe). This is usually performed to establish the cause of urinary problems such as recurrent cystitis or blood in your urine.

There are two different types of cystoscopy - rigid and flexible.

A flexible cystoscopy is usually performed under local anaesthetic which means you feel no pain but will be awake during the operation. However, occasionally some slight discomfort may be experienced.

A rigid cystoscopy usually means an admission into hospital, as most urologists prefer to do this procedure under a general anaesthetic. This action is just a precaution in case any other procedures might need to be performed

Why am I having a cystoscopy?

A cystoscopy may be done for several reasons. This investigation will help to find the cause of various symptoms such as:

- Incontinence
- Difficulty in passing urine
- Pain when passing urine
- Frequent urinary tract infections
- Blood in your urine or unusual cells found in a urine sample



How long does the investigation take?

The entire operation takes 5 - 10 minutes. However if you have had a general anaesthetic putting you to sleep, recovery time may lengthen your stay in the operating department. In almost all cases the test can be performed as a day case but you may be asked to stay overnight depending on how well you recover from the anaesthetic and also if any other procedures were performed.

Are there any side effects?

Usually most cystoscopies are done without any complications. However, some people may experience a mild burning sensation when passing urine 24 – 48 hours following the procedure. A urine infection may develop causing high temperature and pain when passing urine. Rarely, the cystoscopy may damage or perforate the bladder.

If you have any of these symptoms, please contact your Doctor (GP)

Your Urologist will contact you by post if an out patient appointment is necessary

For further information or advice please contact:

Day Surgery Unit on 024 7696 6852 or 024 7696 6851

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