

CYSTOSCOPY

A cystoscopy is an endoscopic examination of the lower urinary tract. A cystoscope (a narrow telescope) is gently inserted through the natural urine channel, the urethra, into the bladder and allows for visual inspection of the inside of the bladder and urethra. It is usually carried out under general anaesthetic in an operating theatre in a hospital or day surgery facility.

A cystoscopy is carried out to investigate the cause of urinary symptoms including blood in the urine, pain or difficulty in passing urine.

During the cystoscopy the procedure can be expanded to treat some of the conditions, which may be detected. For example abnormal lesions can be biopsied or destroyed with the diathermy. In the event that a major abnormality is identified, it may not be able to be treated on that day but may need to be rescheduled for another time after discussion with the patient.

A cystoscopy is performed as a preliminary inspection of the bladder prior to other endoscopic procedures on the urinary tract such as surgery on the prostate. A cystoscopy is performed to allow for passage of finer instruments into the ureter to allow access up to the kidneys.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

There is minimal long term risk to the patient from a cystoscopy, however it is common for the patient to see some blood in the urine or experience some stinging when passing urine for a few days after the procedure. These symptoms usually settle in a few days and can be helped by increasing oral fluids and an alkalizing agent such as Ural or Citravescent.

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Disclaimer. This information is of a general nature, it is not intended as a substitute for your own independent advice from your doctor