

# HAEMATURIA

Haematuria means blood in the urine. It can be macroscopic, meaning visible to the naked eye, or microscopic, not visible to the naked eye but only detectable on testing. Haematuria should never be accepted as normal and should always be investigated to find the cause of the bleeding. The bleeding can arise from an abnormality anywhere in the urinary tract from the kidneys to the tip of the urethra.

After a thorough medical history and physical examination the following investigations are carried out :

## ❖ Pathology

- Blood tests, including a blood test to determine the renal function, and a PSA in males.
- Urine tests to check for urinary infection or the presence of abnormal cells which may point to a tumour in the urinary track.

## ❖ X-ray

An ultrasound is often performed as a preliminary test however more information is gained from a CT scan with intravenous contrast. This test will identify most abnormalities in the urinary tract but is not a substitute for a cystoscopy.

- ❖ Cystoscopy. This is an exploratory procedure where a narrow telescope is passed through the urethra into the bladder to directly visualize the inside of the bladder and urethra. This procedure is carried out under general anaesthetic as a day surgery procedure. Some conditions can be dealt with during this procedure for example small lesions can be biopsied or diathermied, however in the event that a more major abnormality is detected, the treatment may need to be rescheduled for another date after full discussion with the patient.

For further information contact Dr Enzo Lazzaro Ph 029982 4477

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