

Cystoscopy

Cystoscopy is an examination of the bladder and 'urine pipe' (urethra) using a fine telescope called a cystoscope. It may be performed under local anaesthetic, when it is called a flexible cystoscopy, or a general anaesthetic (when you are asleep), when it is called a rigid cystoscopy.

If during the course of this examination an abnormality is found, it may be necessary to perform other procedures e.g. the taking of a small sample of tissue - biopsy. The options for other procedures are more limited if the examination is performed under a local anaesthetic.

After a cystoscopy, most patients have an uneventful recovery and are discharged home the same day. When you have had a general anaesthetic or sedation it is important that you do not drive a car, drink alcohol or handle machinery for 24 hours after the anaesthetic. You should arrange for someone to collect you from hospital.

You should drink plenty of fluids following your operation (approximately 2 litres/4 pints per 24 hours). For about 72 hours you may pass urine frequently, experience a mild burning sensation on passing urine and/or see a little blood in the urine. Continue drinking plenty of water and rest as much as possible.

The main risk of cystoscopy is the development of a urinary infection. You will have been given a dose of antibiotics prior to the procedure, however, whilst this reduces the risk substantially, it by no means becomes zero. If you suffer persistent or worsening burning pain (dysuria) or blood in the urine and particularly if you begin to feel unwell or feverish, please contact your GP so that a urinary infection may be ruled out. If you were discharged from hospital with antibiotics, it is important that you complete the course as instructed.