

Cystoscopy

Cystoscopy is a procedure where the urologist inserts a telescope (known as a cystoscope) into the bladder via the urethra (water pipe). This is usually undertaken to investigate urinary problems such as those listed below. Cystoscopy may be performed with either a rigid or flexible cystoscope.

Flexible cytoscopy can be performed under local anaesthetic, which means the patient is awake during the operation and can observe the inside of his/her urethra and bladder. Slight discomfort may be experienced as the local anaesthetic takes effect and the bladder is filled.

Rigid cytoscopy requires admission into hospital (usually as a day case), because it is performed under a general anaesthetic. It is usually performed where the urologist believes there is a high chance of finding a problem that requires intervention, which would not be possible via the flexible cystoscope.

The usual reasons for needing a cystoscopy are:

- Haematuria (visible or invisible blood in the urine)
- Difficulty or pain in passing urine
- Recurrent urinary tract infections
- Incontinence

How long does the investigation take?

Cystoscopy takes 5 - 10 minutes. However general anaesthesia may lengthen your stay in the operating department.

Are there any side effects?

Complications are unusual. However, some people may experience a burning sensation when passing urine after the procedure; if this persists for more than 24 hours, please contact your urologist or GP to arrange urine sampling and a supply of antibiotics, as you may have a urine infection.