

TURBT (Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumour)

What is a TURBT and how is it done?

Prior to this operation, you will have been found (on flexible cystoscopy or imaging) to have a bladder abnormality suspicious of bladder cancer. It is usually performed under a general anaesthetic but a spinal anaesthetic may be used, where you will be awake throughout the surgery. The bladder abnormality will be removed using a hot, electrosurgical instrument, which can scrape away areas of the tumour and bladder wall under direct vision. A telescope will be passed into your bladder through the urethra (water pipe) and the instrument is passed through it, meaning that there will be no scars or wounds.

The bladder tissue that has been removed during the operation will be sent for microscopic examination. The operation takes between half-an-hour and one hour; and a catheter tube is placed at the end of the operation to allow the bladder to heal without being stretched by filling. The catheter is normally removed the morning after surgery (or later if the abnormality was large) and in most cases patients are able to go home after one to two days. In most cases, your surgeon will wish to pass a single dose of a chemotherapy drug into the bladder via the catheter, within 6 hours of the operation. This is not necessary for every patient but may reduce the chance of tumours recurring and does not have the toxic effects that you may associate with general chemotherapy.

Are there any side effects?

Patients commonly experience a mild burning sensation after the catheter is removed, often associated with urinary frequency and occasional bleeding when passing urine until the bladder wound is completely healed.

After the operation

You will be able to eat and drink immediately you have recovered from the anaesthetic and post-operative pain is usually mild enough to be controlled with simple pain killing tablets. After returning home from hospital it is important to avoid heavy lifting or abdominal straining for a couple of weeks and to drink plenty to keep your urine dilute

Follow up

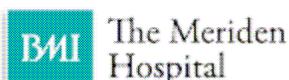
Following the procedure you will be seen in the clinic to discuss the microscopic findings and arrange further treatment. In most cases you will be requested to return to the hospital for further bladder inspections on a regular basis, so that the Consultant can ensure that the growths have not recurred, or to treat those which have.

Potential problems

If you develop any of the following symptoms please contact your urologist or GP:

- Smelly, cloudy urine with or without fever
- Blood in your urine which persists for 24-48 hrs making it difficult to urinate.
- Inability to pass urine or severe abdominal pain

Located at:



University Hospital Site Coventry CV2 2LQ T 02476 647061 F 02476 647195 www.warwickshireurology.com
dmoy@bmihealthcare.co.uk