



FLEXIBLE CYSTOSCOPY

Introduction

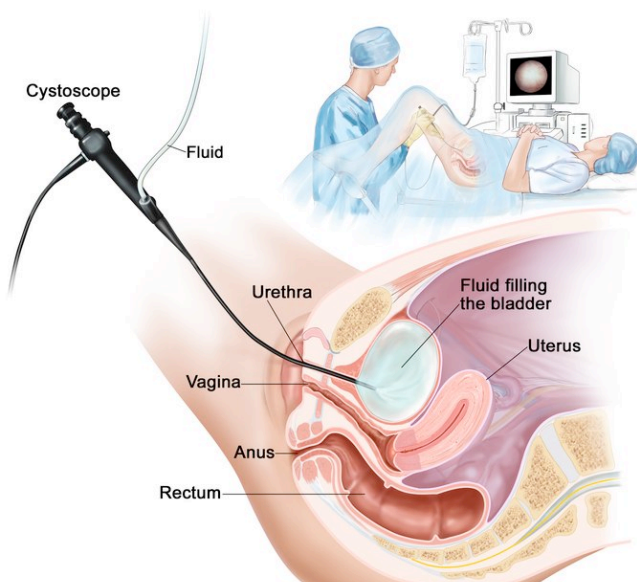
This information leaflet provides information about having a diagnostic test or check-up using flexible cystoscopy.



What is a flexible cystoscopy?

A flexible cystoscopy is an examination of the inside of your bladder. This is done using a thin, flexible, tube-like telescope called a cystoscope. The cystoscope is passed carefully through your waterpassage (urethra) into the bladder. The test is usually done to investigate whether there is any abnormality in bladder or urethra in patients with urinary symptoms or blood in the urine. It can also be done to remove a stent.

Flexible cystoscopy is routinely done as an outpatient procedure. It is usually performed under local anaesthetic, which means that you are awake. The local anaesthetic is administered as a gel that numbs and lubricates the urethra which makes passage of the instrument into the bladder as comfortable as possible. In men the passage of the instrument through the prostate often causes a mild and transient sensation of having to pass urine.



Once the instrument is in place, the examination will only take a few minutes to complete. Attached to the instrument are a telescopic lens, a light source and sterile water to fill the bladder so that the lining can be inspected.

A nurse will remain with you whilst the examination is taking place and will explain anything you do not understand.

What happens after the procedure?

Once the examination has been completed the instrument will be removed and we will explain the findings. You will receive advice on the need for further treatment. You will be able to walk to the toilet to pass the fluid that has been used to fill your bladder.

Are there any risks involved?

Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be assured that most patients do not suffer any problems after the procedure. You may feel some discomfort, but no pain during the procedure.

Bleeding – It is usual to see some blood when you pass urine, but this should subside within 48 hours.

Pain when passing urine – You may notice a mild burning sensation when you pass urine for about 1 to 2 days. Drinking extra fluids should help reduce this.

Frequency & Urgency – You may feel an urgent need to pass urine after the procedure, which again is normal and is caused by the irritation from the cystoscope.

Infection – It is normal to have some discomfort on passing urine immediately after the procedure. If this lasts for more than 24 hours or if you feel feverish and/or generally unwell, you have an infection requiring antibiotics.

Injury to urethra – very rarely an injury to the urethra may cause delayed scar formation inside the waterpassage.

After the test

Once at home, please take it easy for the rest of the day. You should also try and drink some extra fluid (about 1 litre of water over the next 24 hours).

If you experience any problems following the procedure, please contact either your GP or get in touch with our department on 01978 72 7753.