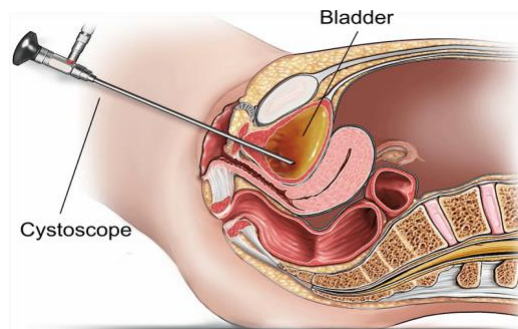




Cystoscopy Information



What is a cystoscopy?

A cystoscopy is a relatively simple and safe procedure where a thin optical instrument (a cystoscope) is introduced through the urethra into the bladder. The doctor can see through the cystoscope and examine inside the bladder and urethra. The procedure is usually performed as a day stay so you will only be in hospital for a few hours and usually will not require an overnight stay.

Why is a cystoscopy performed?

A cystoscopy is the best way to examine the bladder and urethra. The procedure is often done to investigate blood in the urine, urinary tract infections and other urinary conditions. At cystoscopy it is possible to detect stones, ulcers, inflammation and growths of the bladder and urethra. As well as examining the bladder, other procedures may also be performed during the cystoscopy. These include bladder biopsy, diathermy of ulcers and inflammation, removal of bladder tumours and urethral dilatation. You will be advised if you are likely to need any of these additional procedures.

Anaesthesia

A cystoscopy is usually performed with a short general anaesthetic. This means you will be asleep during the procedure. Occasionally the examination is performed with local anaesthetic (a gel into the urethra) if it is unlikely that a biopsy or other procedure will be required. The most appropriate type of anaesthetic will be discussed with you prior to the procedure. Cystoscopy is performed in an operating theatre to ensure a sterile and safe environment.

After the procedure

After the procedure the findings will be discussed with you. Prior to discharge from the hospital you will be provided with a list of instructions and advice to follow once you are at home.