

Cystoscopy

In a cystoscopy, a thin, lighted tube called a **cystoscope** is gently inserted through the urethra and into the bladder to examine the lining of the bladder. Cystoscopy takes about 15 to 20 minutes. A cystoscope gives doctors clear view of a visible bladder tumor and allows them to perform 2 other diagnostic tests that may be used for certain patients:

- **Bladder Wash:** a salt solution is passed into the bladder through a catheter (tube) to loosen cells on the bladder's inner lining. This solution is then removed and a sample taken to be examined under a microscope (cytology).
- **Biopsy:** a tool attached to the cystoscope is used to remove abnormal tissue found on the bladder lining. The tissue is examined in the lab to look for cancer. Some bleeding may occur when the biopsy is taken, so the doctor may cauterize the bladder lining. You will receive either a local or general anesthesia when a biopsy is done.

Preparing for a Cystoscopy

- Tell your doctor if you take any medications and discuss if you need to stop them before your procedure:
 - any medicine that interferes with clotting (warfarin/ Coumadin®, aspirin, ibuprofen Plavix®, etc.)
 - any medications you take by mouth or injection for diabetes
 - medication for arthritis, high blood pressure, or your heart
 - over-the-counter medications, herbal, or vitamin supplements
- Your doctor may order blood or urine tests. If you suspect you have a urinary tract infection, tell your doctor so that proper antibiotics can be prescribed before your surgery
- If you are having **general anesthesia**, you will be told when to stop eating and drinking.
- If you are having **local anesthesia**, you can eat normally.

The Day of Your Cystoscopy

- In most cases, you will lie on your back with your knees raised and apart. The lower part of your body will be covered with a sterile drape.
- A nurse or technologist will clean the area around your urethral opening and apply a local anesthetic.
- The doctor will insert the tip of the cystoscope through your urethra and up into the bladder.
- A sterile liquid (water or saline) may be passed through the cystoscope to stretch your bladder and make it easier for the doctor to examine the bladder wall.
- A bladder wash or biopsy may be performed

After Your Cystoscopy

If you received general anesthesia, you will need to rest for 24 hours following the procedure. During that time, do not drive or use any machinery. Your doctor will tell you about any physical limitations you may have.

You most likely will feel a burning sensation when you urinate, but this should go away quickly

Call your doctor immediately if:

- your experience excessive bleeding
- you are unable to urinate
- you experience any signs of infection such as chills, fever, pain or swelling