

Information for patients having a flexible cystoscopy

What is a flexible cystoscopy test for?

The test is to investigate the cause of various conditions including frequent urinary tract infections, blood in your urine (haematuria), incontinence, unusual cells found in a urine sample, persistent pain when you pass urine and difficulty passing urine. This is done by a doctor looking into the bladder with a flexible telescope. You will be required to give your consent by signing a form. The main benefits of the test is that it does not require a general anaesthetic, is quick, relatively painless and the results are available immediately.

What will happen during the test?

Flexible cystoscopy is usually performed as a day case and done whilst you are awake under local anaesthetic. You will need to wear a hospital gown and lie on your back on a couch. The opening to your urethra (at the end of the penis or entrance to the vagina) will be cleansed with antiseptic solution. Anaesthetic gel will be squirted into the urethra to numb it making it more comfortable to pass the telescope into the bladder.

When the telescope is in place, sterile saline is run via a side channel into the bladder so that the doctor can inspect the lining

of the bladder. You may feel an urge to pass urine as this is done.

The procedure takes about 5 minutes if it is just to inspect the bladder but longer if a biopsy (small sample) is taken from the bladder lining. Results of analysis of the biopsy will be explained at your next out-patients appointment.

The telescope is then gently pulled out and the doctor will explain what he/she has found.

After the test

Most cystoscopies are done without any problems. For the next 24 hours you may have a mild burning feeling when you pass urine and you may need to pass urine more frequently than usual. The urine may also look pink due to mild bleeding especially if a biopsy has been taken.

Occasionally, a urine infection develops shortly after a cystoscopy. This can cause a fever (high temperature) and pain when you pass urine.

You will be able to go home straight after the procedure but you may like to have someone with you to take you home.

If you have any problems with pain or bleeding that is severe or you have difficulty passing urine you will need to

contact your GP or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department.

If you have any problems attending the appointment you will need to contact the **Day Stay Unit on 020 8510 7507/7155/7697**

If you need to discuss the test with a nurse you can speak to the urology nurse specialist on **020 8510 7862/7962**

Flexible cystoscopy

Information for Urology patients

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