

Further information

If you have further questions or concerns about your operation, please contact:

Gynaecology Outpatients Department
The Royal London Hospital

Tel: 0203 594 1585

Patient information

Cystoscopy

Patient Advice and Liaison Service

If you need general information or advice about Trust services, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 020 3594 2040 or visit www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/pals. Alternatively please contact staff who are providing your care if you require clinical advice.

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Introduction

This simple, 10-minute investigation may help detect the cause of your bladder problems. It is performed on an outpatient basis under general anaesthesia. Your written consent will be needed before the investigations can take place.

It involves inserting a long, slim telescope (cystoscope), the size of a pencil, into the bladder to see whether there is any abnormality in the wall lining or muscle or the urethral (the tube that connects the bladder to the outside). If needed, small biopsies (see below) will also be taken.

If a general anaesthesia is needed you will see the anaesthetist to discuss this on the day of the operation. The general anaesthesia is a very short and light one and if all is well you can go home a few hours later. You should make arrangement for someone to accompany you.

You may be able to have the procedure with light sedation if you are suitable.

What is a bladder biopsy?

On looking at the bladder with the cystoscope, we may need to take a small sample (biopsy) from the wall. The biopsy is sent to the laboratory for further examination.

You will be given the results of your test at the follow-up outpatient appointment (usually within 8 to 12 weeks), arranged for you by staff on the ward.

How will I feel after these procedures?

- You may experience some discomfort when passing urine
- Urgency and a repeated sensation of wanting to pass urine even when your bladder is empty
- Blood stained urine (this is normal in the first 48 hours)

It is important to drink plenty of fluid to help wash the bladder and prevent infection.

What are the risks?

If you are unable to pass urine we may need to insert a catheter into the bladder for 24 hours. You may need to stay in hospital with this.

Infection in the urine can occur. If you are at particular risk we will give you antibiotics to take home. If you find that you are getting more pain passing urine or feel unwell, you should visit your GP and ask for your urine to be tested.

There is a very small risk of perforation (a small hole) in the bladder. This does not cause long-term problems and will heal by itself. We will need to leave a catheter in for 24 hours and you will be given antibiotics.

When can I drive?

You should avoid driving for 24 hours as your concentration may be impaired due to the anesthetic.