

Patient information: Cystoscopy

What is a cystoscopy?

- Cystoscopy, or cystourethroscopy, is a procedure that allows a physician to view the inside of the bladder and urethra.
- It is commonly used to diagnose problems or abnormalities related to the bladder or urinary tract.
- A cystoscopy is frequently performed in an outpatient setting such as a doctor's office.

Preparing for a cystoscopy

- No special preparation is needed prior to your appointment.
- Immediately before the procedure you will need to empty your bladder.

During the procedure

- You will lie on the exam table with your feet in the stirrups.
- Local anesthetic gel will be used to numb the urethral area.
- A thin, lighted tube called a cystoscope equipped with a small lens will be inserted into the urethra and moved slowly up into the bladder.
- The physician will then fill the bladder with water or saline through the cystoscope.
- As the bladder expands with the fluid, the physician is able to view the bladder lining.
- The average time the scope is in the bladder is two to ten minutes. The entire exam can take up to 30 minutes.

After the procedure

- After the cystoscope is removed, your urethra may be sore and you may feel a burning sensation for up to 48 hours. If necessary, you can take an over-the-counter pain reliever like Ibuprofen 600-800 mg or Aleve 200 mg to control discomfort, as long as you are not allergic to these products or to aspirin.
- If discomfort persists, please call our office.

Risks associated with this procedure

As with all procedures, there are some risks involved. Risks can include:

- Bladder spasms
- Temporary blood in urine
- Irritation, injury or perforation of the urethra or bladder
- Difficulty voiding following the procedure
- Post-procedure urinary tract infection.

Call us at (413) 794-8484 (even outside of normal office hours) if you have:

- Severe discomfort.
- A fever over 100° F within the first three days following the procedure.
- Urine that appears bright red.