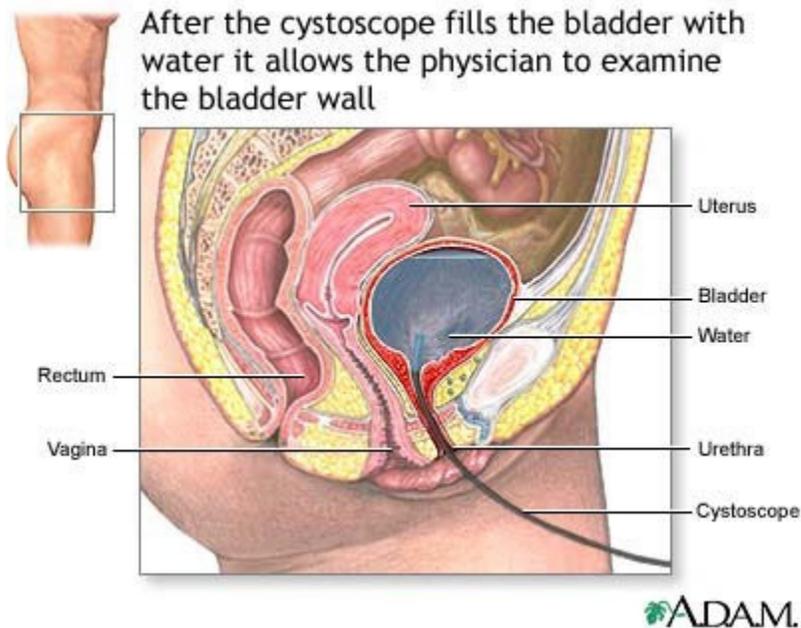


# Cystoscopy



**Definition:** Cystoscopy is a procedure to see the inside of the bladder and urethra.

**Alternative Names:** Cystourethroscopy

## Why the Test is Performed

- Check for **cancer** of the bladder or urethra
- Diagnose and evaluate urinary tract disorders
- Diagnose recurrent bladder infections
- Help determine the cause of **pain during urination**

## How the Test is Performed

Cystoscopy is performed with a cystoscope -- a specialized tube with a small camera on the end (endoscope). There are two types of cystoscopes:

- Standard, rigid cystoscope
- Flexible cystoscope

The way the cystoscope is inserted varies, but the test is the same. Which cystoscope your doctor uses depends on the purpose of the exam.

If the standard rigid cystoscope is used, you will lie on your back with your knees up and apart. If a flexible cystoscope is used, this position will not be necessary.

The procedure usually takes 5 - 20 minutes. The urethra is cleansed. A local anesthetic is applied. The scope is then inserted through the urethra into the bladder.

Water or salt water (saline) is injected through the cystoscope to fill the bladder. As this occurs, you will be asked to describe the feeling. Your answer will reveal information about your condition.

As fluid fills the bladder, it stretches the bladder wall. This lets your health care provider see the entire bladder wall. You will feel the need to urinate when the bladder is full. However, it must remain full until the examination is complete.

If any tissue appears abnormal, a small sample can be taken (**biopsy**) through the cystoscope and sent to a lab for analysis.

### **How to Prepare for the Test**

You should plan for someone to take you home from the hospital.

### **How the Test Will Feel**

You may feel slight discomfort when the cystoscope is passed through the urethra into the bladder. You will feel an uncomfortable, strong need to urinate when your bladder is full.

You may feel a quick pinch if a biopsy is taken. After the cystoscope is removed, the urethra may be sore. You may feel a burning sensation during urination for a day or two.

### **Risks**

There is a slight risk of excessive bleeding when a biopsy is taken. There is also a risk that the bladder wall will rupture from the cystoscope or during biopsy.

### **Considerations**

You must be sure to drink 4 - 6 glasses of water per day after your cystoscopy.

You may notice a small amount of blood in your urine following this procedure. If the bleeding continues after you urinate 3 times, contact your health care provider.

Contact your health care provider if you develop any of these signs of infection:

- Chills
- Fever
- Pain
- Reduced urine output

### **Normal Results**

The bladder wall should appear smooth. The bladder should be normal size, shape, and position. There should be no obstructions, growths, or stones.

### **What Abnormal Results Could Mean**

- Bladder stones (calculi)
- Bladder wall decompression
- Chronic urethritis
- Congenital (present at birth) abnormality

- Cysts
- Diverticula
- Irritable bladder
- Polyps
- Prostate abnormalities: such as bleeding prostate, enlarged prostate, or obstructed prostate
- Traumatic injury of the bladder and urethra
- Tumors
- Ulcer
- Urethral strictures

Review Date: 5/22/2008

Reviewed By: Scott M. Gilbert, MD, Department of Urology, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, NY. Review provided by VeriMed Healthcare Network. Also reviewed by David Zieve, MD, MHA, Medical Director, A.D.A.M., Inc.

The information provided herein should not be used during any medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. A licensed medical professional should be consulted for diagnosis and treatment of any and all medical conditions. Call 911 for all medical emergencies. Links to other sites are provided for information only -- they do not constitute endorsements of those other sites. © 1997- A.D.A.M., Inc. Any duplication or distribution of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited.