

CYSTOSCOPY

Cystoscopy is a simple procedure performed to investigate a number of urinary symptoms including urinary frequency, urgency, bladder pain, frequent urinary infections and blood in the urine.

A small medical telescope is passed through the urethra (the tube that passes urine from the bladder) and no incisions are required. Sterile fluid is used to inflate the bladder and the inside of the bladder is then inspected. If any abnormality is seen a biopsy (a small piece of tissue) is then taken and sent to be investigated.

The procedure takes 10-15 minutes and you will usually only be in hospital for the day.

The procedure may be performed under local or general anaesthetic depending on the reason for the investigation.

Are there any complications?

- A urinary infection may occur after the procedure. Antibiotics are given during the procedure.
- If a biopsy is taken a small hole may occur in the bladder. You may then be required to stay in hospital overnight with a catheter.
- Blood in the urine is not uncommon after the procedure and should settle in 24-48 hours.
- General risks of having an operation including the anaesthetic, pain and discomfort, infection in the surgical site or urinary tract, clots in the legs which can travel to the lungs, lung infections, stroke and heart attack.

Recovery time

- Most women stay in hospital for the day only.
- You will need someone to drive you home if you have a general anaesthetic.
- You are advised to increase your fluid intake for 24 hours after the test to prevent urinary tract infection. If you are concerned that you may have an infection, please see your own local doctor or call Dr Higgs' rooms.
- Some women will have some lower abdominal discomfort after the procedure and need some pain relief (usually paracetamol will be all that is required).
- You will be able to return to normal activities the next day.

If you have concerns following the surgery, please phone Dr Higgs' rooms on 07 53155361 or contact Buderim Private Hospital (07 5430 3303) and ask to speak to a nurse on the surgical ward (Ward 1A or 4B).