

# What is a Flexible Cystoscopy?

A **flexible cystoscopy** is a relatively painless examination using a special fiber-optic telescope like instrument. It enables the doctor to examine the urethra (urine outlet passage) and the inside of the bladder without a general anesthetic. It is also used to biopsy bladder tissue, remove stents, and to take special x-rays of the kidneys.

## Why do I need a cystoscopy?

Some urinary symptoms are due to problems in the bladder or the urethra. Sometimes the cause will be clear from x-ray, blood, or urine tests, but often the only way your doctor can diagnose the cause of your problem is to look inside the bladder with a cystoscope. Some of the things your doctor may be looking for are bladder tumors, bladder stones, or prostate obstruction (in men.)

## What preparation is required?

No special preparation is required. You may eat or drink as normal. If you are to receive IV sedation you will be given appropriate

instructions. After you have checked in with the receptionist the nurse will bring you back to the dressing room where you will be asked to change into a hospital gown, this is to prevent your clothes from getting wet during the procedure. You will then be taken to the exam room.

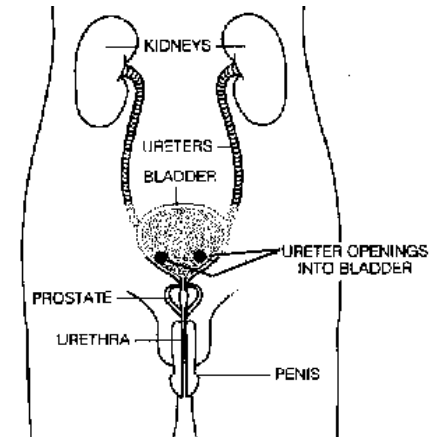
## What happens during cystoscopy?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the exam table. Try and relax, it will make the examination more comfortable. The urethra and surrounding areas are washed with a mild antiseptic and draped with sterile towels. A topical anesthetic jelly is then applied to the urethra. The cystoscope will be gently inserted into the urethra. Sterile water flows through the cystoscope into the bladder, which expands, allowing the urologist to study specific areas of the urethra and bladder closely. The procedure usually takes approximately 5-10 minutes. You may experience some slight discomfort, but it should not be painful.

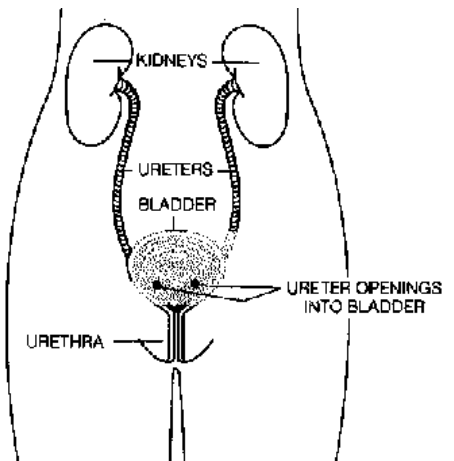
## What to expect after cystoscopy?

Most people have no trouble after a cystoscopy. You will be able to drive home. Afterwards you may have temporary burning or bleeding on urination. Drinking extra fluids during this period is recommended. Cystoscopy results are available immediately and your doctor may discuss these with you.

## Male Urinary System



## Female Urinary System



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