

## *Flexible cystoscopy*

### **Introduction**

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This information leaflet is intended for use of those patients undergoing flexible cystoscopy. The procedure is usually done under local anaesthetic.

### **What should I expect before the procedure?**

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You will usually be admitted on the same day as your procedure. When you arrive, you will be asked to pass urine before the examination. You will be asked to remove the clothes on the lower half of your body and to put on a hospital gown. You will then be given an antibiotic tablet (usually ciprofloxacin 500mg), after checking for any allergies, to reduce the risk of urinary infection.

### **What does the procedure involve?**

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This procedure involves telescopic inspection of the bladder and water pipe (urethra). It is usually done to investigate whether there is any abnormality in the bladder or urethra in patients with urinary symptoms or with blood in the urine. We can also remove a stent using this telescope.

### **What are the alternatives to this procedure?**

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General anaesthetic cystoscopy.

## What happens during the procedure?

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In order to perform the procedure, it is necessary to insert the instrument, which is flexible, into the bladder via the water pipe. A local anaesthetic jelly is used to numb and lubricate the urethra which makes passage of the instrument into the bladder as comfortable as possible. Men often find passage of the instrument through the area of the prostate gland uncomfortable but this is momentary.

Once the instrument is in place, the examination will only take a few minutes to complete. Attached to the instrument are a telescopic lens, a light source and some sterile water to fill the bladder so that all the lining can be inspected. A nurse will remain with you whilst the examination is taking place and will explain anything you do not understand.

## What happens immediately after the procedure?

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Once the surgeon has completed the examination, he will remove the instrument and will explain the findings. You will also be advised of the need for any further treatment. You will then be able to walk to the toilet to pass the fluid that has been used to fill your bladder. Finally, you will be taken back to your cubicle where you can wash and dress yourself. You will usually only need to be on the day ward for an hour in total, but it may sometimes be longer than this.

## Are there any side-effects?

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Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be reassured that, although all these complications are well-recognised, the majority of patients do not suffer any problems after this procedure.

### Common (greater than 1 in 10)

- Mild burning or bleeding on passing urine for a short period after the operation
- Biopsy of abnormal areas in bladder (this may require a further procedure under a general anaesthetic)

### Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)

- Infection of the bladder requiring antibiotics

### Rare (less than 1 in 50)

- Temporary insertion of a catheter
- Delayed bleeding requiring removal of clots or further surgery
- Injury to the urethra causing delayed scar formation

Procedure code for insured patients: M4510



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*For your peace of mind*

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