

# Flexible Cystoscopy

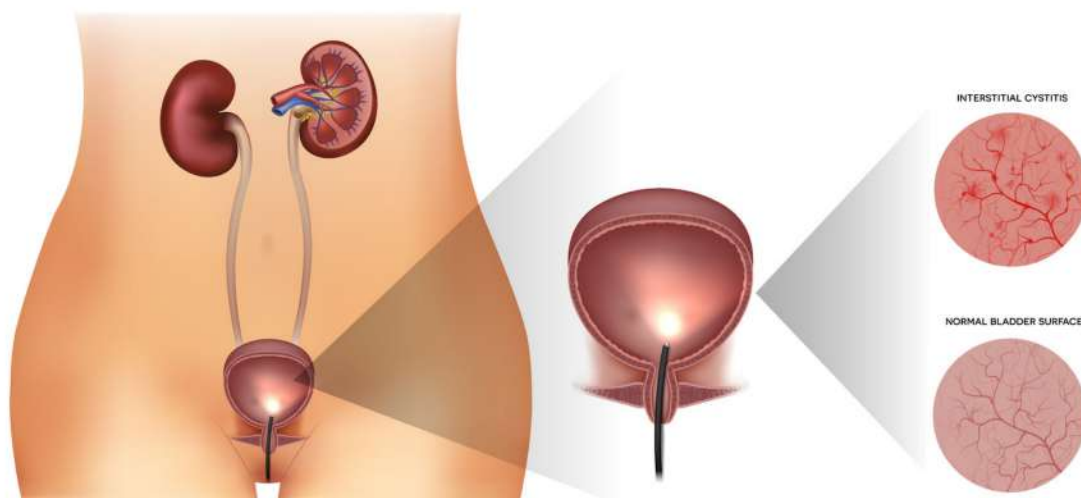
## What is Flexible Cystoscopy?

Cystoscopy is a procedure which allows direct visual inspection of the urethra and bladder.

## Why Do I Need This Procedure?

It is an essential investigation for patients presenting with

- haematuria (blood in urine)
- irritative lower urinary tract symptoms where bladder pathology such as cancer (CIS) or stone is suspected.
- for surveillance of patients with bladder cancer who have been treated.
- other clinical diagnoses which require inspection of the inner cavity of the urinary bladder prior to planning treatment.

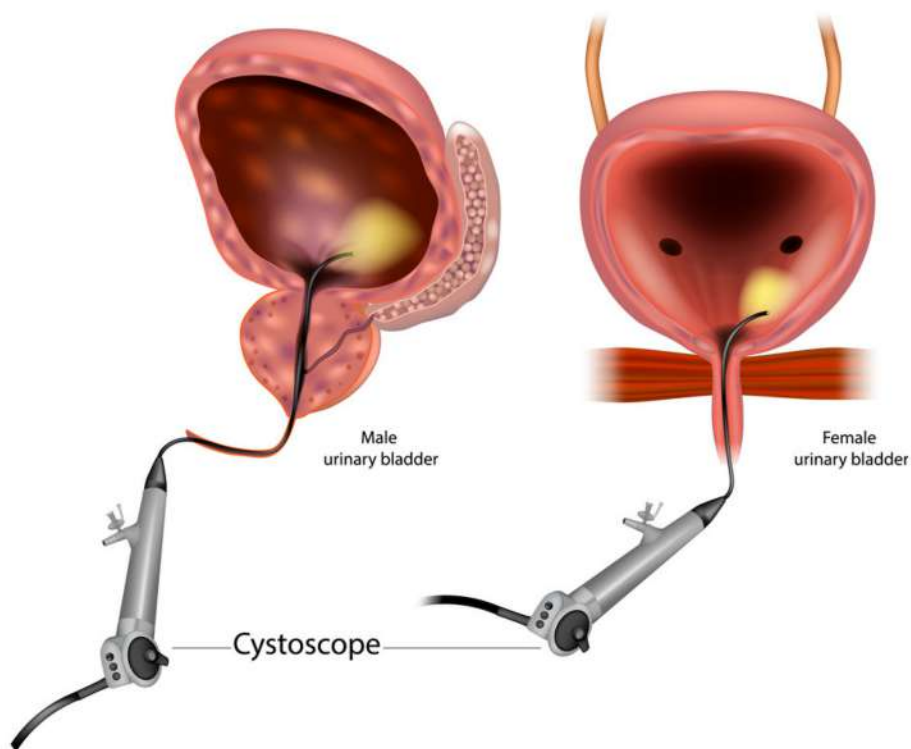


## What are the Preparations?

No special preparation is required. Patients undergoing this procedure may feel less discomfort if they empty their bladder before starting.

## How is the Procedure Performed?

A flexible instrument (cystoscope) is passed down the urine passage into the bladder, after applying a gel which lubricates and numb the sensation, thus making the procedure less uncomfortable.



## What are the Risks and Complications of the Procedure?

### **Common**

- Mild bleeding (haematuria) or burning sensation on passing urine, which may last for 1 to 2 days.

### **Occasional:**

- Urinary tract infection which would need antibiotic treatment and rarely admission to hospital.

### **Rare:**

- Temporary insertion of a catheter
- Bleeding (immediate or delayed) requiring further surgery to remove the clots, and stops bleeding
- Injury to urethra causing delayed narrowing from scar tissue formation

### **Very Rare:**

- Bladder perforation can occur, and this may require temporary insertion of a catheter or open surgical repair, depending on the size and location of the perforation.

## What Would I Expect After the Procedure?

It is common to experience mild burning discomfort and bleeding after cystoscopy. This usually goes away within 2 days. There is a small chance of urinary tract infection which can be treated with antibiotics and when it happens. Preventive antibiotics are not given as a routine but only for special situations.

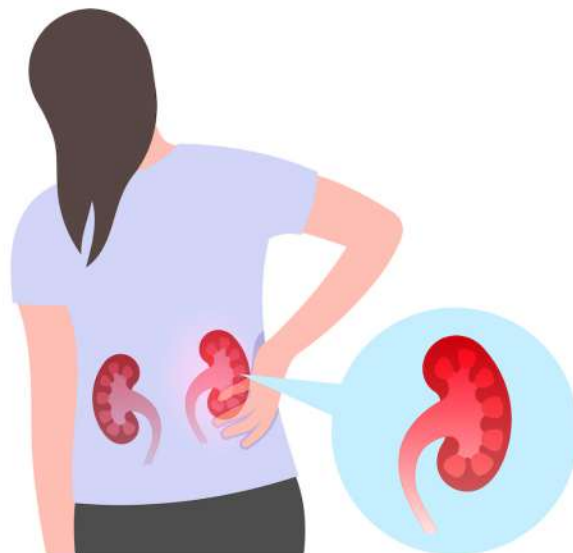


## What are the Options?

Special scans and urine tests may diagnose bladder conditions. Eg. Tumors, stones, but their diagnostic accuracies are inferior to flexible cystoscopy.

## What Will Happen If I Do Not Undergo the Procedure?

Abnormal growths in the bladder and urethra might be missed resulting in delayed treatment and poorer outcome. There will be less information regarding the inner cavity of your bladder, making it more difficult for your doctor to plan treatment.



Contributed by Urology

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