



CYSTOSCOPY

WHAT IS IT?

Cystoscopy is a procedure used to examine the lining of the bladder and urethra. A cystoscope can be either a rigid or flexible tube, fiber-optic, with a lighted end. The sheath of the cystoscope has channels for instruments to pass through during the procedure.

WHAT CONDITIONS IS IT DESIGNED TO TREAT?

Cystoscopy is designed to diagnose and evaluate urinary tract injuries, and to provide guidance before and during surgical procedures. During cystoscopy, a physician can check for cancer of the bladder or urethra, determine the cause of painful urination, or look for the cause of recurrent bladder infections.

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?

Cystoscopy can be performed in an office or outpatient setting. Local, regional, or general anesthesia may be used. The thin tube of the cystoscope is passed through the urethra and into the bladder. Irrigation fluid (water usually) is used to distend the bladder and increase visibility. Small stones and abnormal growths can be removed during cystoscopy. Biopsies can be taken if abnormalities are found either in the bladder or urethral walls.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS?

Potential risks include the possibility of infection or bleeding, perforated bladder caused by tearing during the procedure may occur but is unusual, and painful urination for several days after the procedure. Usually, a single dose of an antibiotic is given to help prevent the development of a urinary tract infection.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

Patients can return to normal activities immediately. If the patient notices reduced urine output, bleeding, or develops signs of an infection such as fever and chills, they should contact a physician immediately.

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