

Cystoscopy

A Direct Look at Your Bladder and Urethra

Cystoscopy is a procedure that lets your doctor look directly inside your urethra and bladder. Cystoscopy can be used to help diagnose a problem with your urethra, bladder, or kidneys. This procedure can be performed in the office or in the hospital when combined with biopsy.

What is a Cystoscope?

Cystoscopy is done using a **cystoscope**, a telescope-like instrument that contains special lenses. The cystoscope also contains fiberoptics, small glass wires that make a bright light. The cystoscope may be straight and rigid, or it may be flexible to bend around curves in the urethra.

What To Tell Your Doctor

Tell your doctor before the examination if you:

- Take any medications, especially aspirin, aspirin like products, or blood thinners.
- Have allergies to any medications.
- Or if you are pregnant.

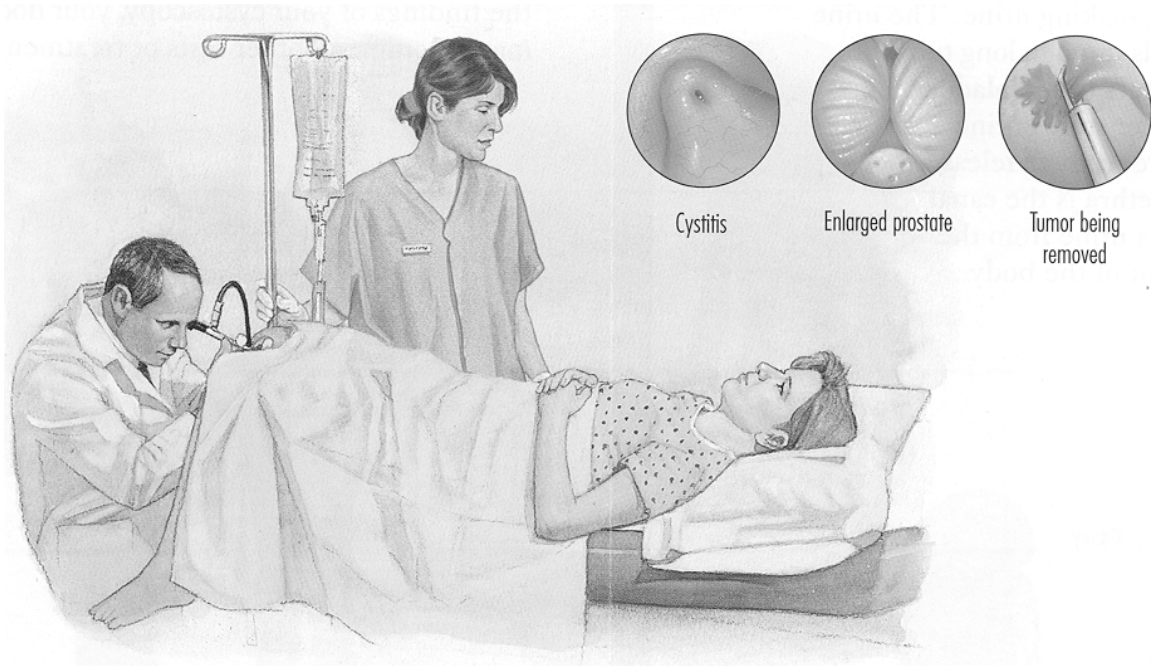
Getting Ready

To help prepare for the procedure, do the following:

- Continue taking your usual medications unless otherwise directed by your physician.
- Plan for the appointment to take approximately 30 minutes.
- If the cystoscopy is being performed **in the office** you can eat or drink prior to the procedure. However, if the cystoscopy is being performed **in the hospital**, you should avoid eating or drinking after midnight.
- Follow any other instructions that your doctor gives you.

The Procedure

Cystoscopy is done in the doctor's office or sometimes in the hospital. The doctor and a nurse will be present during the procedure. It takes only a few minutes for cystoscopy to be performed.



During the Procedure

- You lie on an examination table covered by a drape.
- Your urethra and surrounding areas are cleaned with an antiseptic.
- The cystoscope is inserted. A sterile fluid is put into the bladder to expand it. You may feel pressure from this fluid.
- When the procedure is done the cystoscope is removed and you are given an antibiotic and allowed to empty your bladder.

After the Procedure

- You can go home after the procedure.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- You may have burning or light bleeding when you urinate. This is normal.
- **Call your doctor if you have:** heavy bleeding or clots, burning that lasts more than a day, a fever greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit, or trouble urinating.

Finding Out the Results

Your doctor will discuss the results of your cystoscopy with you after the procedure. Based on the findings of your cystoscopy, your doctor may recommend other tests or treatments.