

A Closer Look

Cystoscopy gives a direct look into the urethra and bladder. This procedure helps diagnose a problem with the urinary tract. During it, the doctor can:

- Take a tissue sample (biopsy) from the bladder or urethra.
- Treat certain problems (such as kidney stones).
- Take special x-rays of the kidneys.

What Is a Cystoscope?

The procedure is done using a **cystoscope**. This is a long, narrow telescope-like tool. It contains special lenses and bright light. It gives the doctor a close view of the inside of the urethra and bladder. The cystoscope may be flexible or straight and rigid.

What to Tell Your Doctor

Before the procedure, tell your doctor:

- About all medications you take. These include those you buy over the counter. Be sure to mention aspirin or blood thinners.
- If you have allergies to any medications.
- If you are, or may be, pregnant.

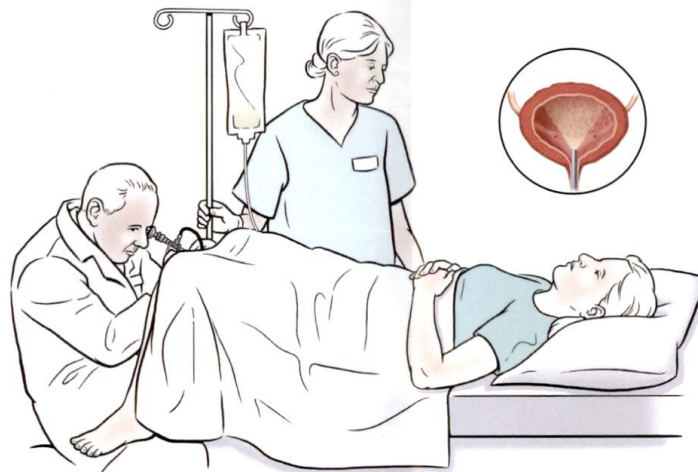
Getting Ready

To help prepare for the procedure:

- Stop taking medications as instructed.
- Plan for the appointment to take 30 to 60 minutes.
- Follow instructions for stopping eating and drinking before the procedure.
- Follow any other instructions your doctor gives you.

The Procedure

Cystoscopy may be done in the doctor's office. Or it may be done in a hospital. The doctor and sometimes a nurse are present during the procedure. It takes only a few minutes. It may take longer if a biopsy, x-ray, or treatment is done.



During the Procedure

- You lie on your back on an exam table. You are covered with a drape.
- Your urethra and the area around it is washed.
- Anesthetic gel may be applied to numb the urethra. You may be offered medication to relax you.
- The cystoscope is inserted into the urethra to the bladder. A sterile fluid is sent into the bladder to expand it. You may feel pressure from this fluid.
- A biopsy or minor treatment can be done through the cystoscope. Your doctor will likely discuss this with you before the procedure begins.
- When the procedure is done, the cystoscope is removed.

After the Procedure

You can go home soon after the procedure is done. If you had medication to relax you, have an adult family member or friend drive you home. At home:

- Drink plenty of fluids. This helps flush your urinary tract.
- You may have burning or light bleeding when you urinate. This is normal.



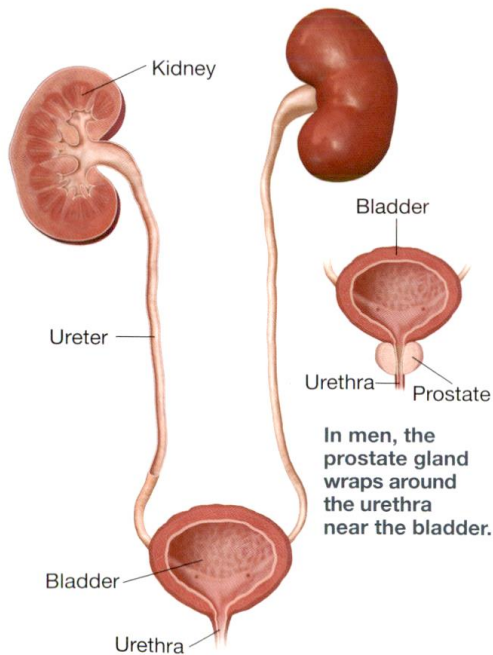
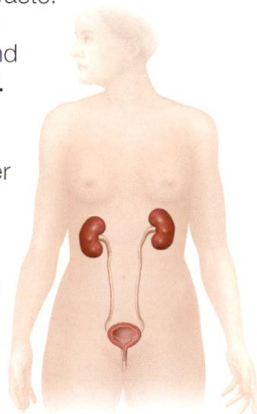
Call the Doctor If You Have:

- Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Trouble urinating
- Burning that lasts more than a day
- Heavy bleeding or blood clots

Your Urinary Tract

The urinary tract helps rid your body of liquid waste.

The **kidneys** collect excess chemicals and water to make **urine**. This travels through the **ureters** to the **bladder**. The bladder holds urine until you're ready to release it. Urine then passes through the **urethra** and out of the body.



Finding Out the Results

Your doctor will discuss your results with you. If you had a biopsy, results may take a week or longer. You and your doctor can talk about any further testing or treatment that may be needed.



Also available in Spanish

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CYSTOSCOPY



A Direct Look at the Bladder and Urethra