



Centre for Pelvic Floor Competence

Information about Cystoscopy



What is a cystoscopy?

Your doctor has scheduled you for a test called **cystoscopy**. The name of the test means, “To look in the bladder.” Cystoscopy is a test that is most often used to look inside the bladder to diagnose bladder problems or conditions.

What happens during the cystoscopy?

This test is performed in the doctor’s office. You will be asked to lie down, as if you were having a pelvic exam. The doctor will use a long, slender camera to look into your bladder. A picture of your bladder will be shown on a video monitor or screen, so you will be able to see everything the doctor sees. During the test, the doctor will be filling your bladder with

sterile fluid. As the doctor examines the bladder surfaces, you will feel the camera inside your bladder. Most patients say it is slightly uncomfortable, but it shouldn’t hurt.

What happens after the cystoscopy?

This test very rarely causes any complications or problems. Some women report some bladder irritation or burning after the test. Fewer than 5% of women will develop a bladder infection. The burning feeling when you urinate usually lasts a few hours and goes away without any treatment. If the burning feeling continues, you may have a bladder infection and your doctor can recommend a medication. Other complications are extremely uncommon.

What do I need to do before the cystoscopy?

We do not recommend any special preparation for this test. However, please notify us if you think you might have a bladder infection on the day of your appointment, since your doctor will probably want to reschedule the test.

Please arrive 20 minutes prior to your appointment. Do not empty your bladder, as we may need a urine specimen prior to the procedure.

Please speak to your doctor if you have any questions.

Original: 6/5/2011