

Cystoscopy, or cystourethroscopy, is a procedure that enables your urologist to view the inside of the bladder and urethra in great detail. It is commonly used to diagnose bladder tumors, identify obstruction of the bladder and look for any abnormalities of the bladder and its lining.

Cystoscopy is an outpatient procedure done in the office. After administration of local anesthesia gel, a cystoscope is inserted through the urethra into the bladder. The cystoscope is a thin, lighted tube that is flexible. Water or saline is then instilled into the bladder through the cystoscope. As the fluid fills the bladder, the bladder wall is stretched thus allowing detailed viewing by the urologist. The filling of the bladder may give you the sensation that you have to urinate. Under normal conditions, the bladder wall should appear smooth and the bladder should be normal size, shape and position and there should not be any blockages.

The average cystoscopy takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

After the cystoscope is removed, the patient's urethra may be sore and they may feel a burning sensation for up to 48 hours. Occasionally you will be given antibiotics after the procedure to prevent infection. If discomfort persists beyond 72 hours, fever develops or urine appears bright red or you begin passing large blood clots, your physician should be notified.