



# HALTON UROLOGY

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## What is a cystoscopy?

Cystoscopy is a procedure that allows your doctor to examine the lining of your bladder and the tube that carries urine out of your body (urethra). A hollow tube (cystoscope) equipped with a lens is inserted into your urethra and slowly advanced into your bladder. Cystoscopy is done at the hospital, using a local anesthetic jelly to numb your urethra.

Cystoscopy is used to diagnose, monitor and treat conditions affecting the bladder and urethra. Your doctor might recommend cystoscopy to:

- **Investigate causes of signs and symptoms.** Those signs and symptoms can include blood in the urine, incontinence, overactive bladder and painful urination. Cystoscopy can also help determine the cause of frequent urinary tract infections. However, cystoscopy generally isn't done while you have an active urinary tract infection.
- **Diagnose bladder diseases and conditions.** Examples include bladder cancer, bladder stones and bladder inflammation (cystitis).
- **Treat bladder diseases and conditions.** Special tools can be passed through the cystoscope to treat certain conditions. For example, very small bladder tumors might be removed during cystoscopy.
- **Diagnose an enlarged prostate.** Cystoscopy can reveal a narrowing of the urethra where it passes through the prostate gland, indicating an enlarged prostate (benign prostatic hyperplasia).

Complications of cystoscopy can include:

- **Infection.** Rarely, cystoscopy can introduce germs into your urinary tract, causing an infection. To prevent infection, your doctor might prescribe antibiotics to take before and after your cystoscopy. Risk factors for developing a urinary tract infection after cystoscopy include advanced age, smoking and unusual anatomy in your urinary tract.
- **Bleeding.** Cystoscopy might cause some blood in your urine. Serious bleeding occurs rarely.
- **Pain.** You might experience abdominal pain and a burning sensation when urinating. These symptoms are generally mild and gradually decrease after the procedure.

## **Signs and symptoms of a serious complication**

Call your doctor or go to the nearest emergency room if you experience:

- An inability to urinate after cystoscopy
- Bright red blood or heavy blood clots in your urine
- Abdominal pain and nausea

- Chills
- A fever higher than 101.4 F (38.5 C)
- Pain or burning during urination that lasts more than two days