



HALTON UROLOGY

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What is a transurethral resection of bladder tumour?

A transurethral resection of bladder tumour (TURBT) is a surgical procedure where a tumour is removed from the bladder wall through the urethra and no external incisions are needed. A combined visual and surgical instrument (resectoscope) is passed into the bladder through the urethra.

There are two main types of anesthetic used for this surgery:

- general anesthetic: You will be asleep throughout the operation.
- regional anesthetic e.g. spinal: A needle is placed into your back and a solution is injected that will numb your body from the waist down. You will be awake but maybe sleepy and you will not feel the operation.

An electric probe is then passed down the resectoscope and is then used to cut and remove the tumour from the inner layer of the bladder wall while sealing off any bleeding areas at the same time. Any tissue that is removed is collected and sent to the laboratory where the pathologist will examine the tissue under a microscope.

Many TURBTs are performed as outpatient day surgical procedures, which means that the majority of patients are able to return home on the same day as their operation. Sometimes, depending on the amount of tumour that has to be removed, you may be required to stay in hospital overnight or until the urine becomes clear.