Cystoscopy is a test that allows your doctor to look at the inside of the bladder and the urethra using a thin, lighted instrument called a cystoscope. The cystoscope is inserted into your urethra and slowly advanced into the bladder. Cystoscopy allows your doctor to look at areas of your bladder and urethra that usually do not show up well on X-rays. Tiny surgical instruments can be inserted through the cystoscope that allows your doctor to remove samples of tissue (biopsy) or samples of urine. Small bladder stones and some small growths can be removed during cystoscopy. This may eliminate the need for more extensive surgery.

Why It Is Done

Cystoscopy may be done to:

- Find the cause of symptoms such as blood in the urine (hematuria), painful urination (dysuria), urinary incontinence, urinary frequency or hesitancy, an inability to pass urine (retention), or a sudden and overwhelming need to urinate (urgency). Clot evacuation (removal of blood clots in the bladder).
- Find the cause of problems of the urinary tract, such as frequent, repeated urinary tract infections or urinary tract infections that do not respond to treatment.
- Look for problems in the urinary tract, such as blockage in the urethra caused by an enlarged prostate, kidney stones, strictures (Direct visual internal urethrotomy [DVIU] is one of several treatments for urethral stricture), or tumors.
- Evaluate problems that cannot be seen on X-ray or to further investigate problems detected by ultrasound or during intravenous pyelography, such as kidney stones or tumors.
- Remove tissue samples for bladder biopsy.
- Remove foreign objects.
- Place ureteral catheters (stents) to help urine flow from the kidneys to the bladder.
- Treat urinary tract problems. For example, cystoscopy can be done to remove urinary tract stones or growths, treat bleeding in the bladder (fulguration – “Fulguration” of a bladder lesion means to destroy the lesion by burning it), relieve blockages in the urethra (urethral dilatation), or treat or remove tumors.
- Place a catheter in the ureter for an X-ray test called retrograde pyelography. A dye that shows up on an X-ray picture is injected through the catheter to fill and outline the ureter and the inside of the kidney.

This material is for educational purposes only and should in no way be taken to be the practice or provision of medical, nursing or professional healthcare advice or services.

The information should not be used in place of a visit, call, consultation or advice of your physician, nurse or other health care provider.

The information obtained herein is not exhaustive and does not cover all aspects of the specific disease, ailment, physical condition or their treatments.

Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician, nurse or other health care provider promptly.