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Cystoscopy with Bladder Biopsy

Pre-Procedure Instructions for Patients

ABOUT YOUR PROCEDURE

This procedure combines a cystoscopy — looking inside the bladder with a thin telescope — with taking small tissue samples from any abnormal areas. Your urologist may also use cautery (an electric current) to destroy small abnormal areas or to stop bleeding. The samples are sent to pathology so the tissue can be examined under a microscope.

The scope passes through the urethra, so there are no incisions. The procedure takes about 15 to 20 minutes in the office.

MEDICATIONS

- **Blood thinners:** Unlike a simple diagnostic cystoscopy, a biopsy involves cutting tissue. **Ask the provider who prescribes your blood thinner whether it is safe to stop**, typically several days beforehand. Do not stop any prescription medicine on your own.
- **Antibiotic:** If prescribed, take it exactly as directed and finish the course.
- Continue all other regular medications unless told otherwise.

THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE

- Eat and drink normally unless told otherwise.
- Wear comfortable, easily removed clothing.
- Bring your medication list, insurance information, and photo ID.
- You will be asked to give a urine sample and empty your bladder when you arrive.
- Bring a driver if you were given a medication to help you relax.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Numbing jelly is placed into the urethra and allowed to take effect. Your urologist passes the scope and fills the bladder with sterile fluid. When a biopsy is taken you may feel a brief pinch or cramping sensation. If cautery is used you may feel a warm or stinging sensation. Most patients tolerate this well with numbing jelly alone.

Pathology results usually take about one week. We will contact you and arrange follow-up to discuss them.

WHEN TO CALL THE OFFICE

Call 909.236.3333 before your appointment if you have signs of a urinary tract infection — burning, fever, chills, or cloudy foul-smelling urine — or if you were unable to stop a blood thinner as directed.