

Cystoscopy and transurethral bulking agent injection

What is a cystoscopy and transurethral bulking agent injection?

A cystoscopy is a procedure that allows the doctor to look inside the bladder by passing a small telescope through the urethra, the tube through which urine passes.

A transurethral bulking injection is the process of administering a bulking agent into the tissues surrounding the urethra, via the urethra, to restore the closing of the urethra.

Why is a cystoscopy and transurethral bulking agent injection required?

The cystoscopy is performed to visualise the urethra to determine the position to administer the bulking agent.

Injection of a bulking agent narrows the urethra. It is used to manage stress urinary incontinence.

What does a cystoscopy and injection of a transurethral bulking agent involve?

A cystoscopy and transurethral bulking agent injection is performed under general or spinal anaesthetic in a hospital.

Three to four injections of the bulking agent are placed in the tissues surrounding the urethra.

The procedure is usually performed as day surgery – you can go home on the same day as the procedure after you have passed urine.

If you have had sedation or general anaesthesia you will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

What is the recovery after a cystoscopy and injection of transurethral bulking agent?

You may notice blood in the urine for a day or two after the procedure.

You may have mild burning and stinging when passing urine for a day or two.

You can usually return to work after 24 hours.

You will not be able to drive for 24 hours.

What are the risks of a cystoscopy and injection of transurethral bulking agent?

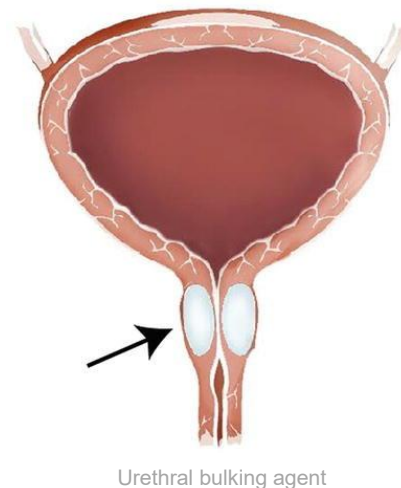
The risks of this procedure include (but are not limited to):

Occasional risks (1/10 – 1/50)

- Urinary tract infection requiring antibiotics.

Rare risks (1/50 – 1/250)

- Significant bleeding in the urine requiring another procedure to correct.
- Damage to the urethra causing scarring.



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Very rare risks (<1/250)

- Damage to the bladder requiring another procedure to correct.

Risks specific to injection of transurethral bulking agent.

- Inability or difficulty passing urine requiring catheterisation of the bladder or performing self-catheterisation.
- Failure of treatment to completely resolve symptoms.
- Erosion of the bulking agent into the vagina or bladder/urethra.
- Migration of the bulking agent away from the urethra resulting in it becoming less effective.
- Fibrosis (hardening) of urethra – rare.

The risks of anaesthesia have not been listed here.

Other uncommon or very uncommon risks of surgery and anaesthesia include:

- Blood clots in the legs (Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)) or lungs (Pulmonary embolus).
- Chest infection (Pneumonia).
- Heart attack.
- Stroke.
- A serious allergic reaction (Anaphylaxis).
- Death.

What are the alternative treatment options?

- Pelvic floor muscle exercises.
- Electrical stimulation of pelvic muscles.
- Urethral sling surgery (mesh or non-mesh).
- Burch colposuspension procedure.

This is general information only. Please consult your doctor for more information and treatment options.

For appointments and enquiries please contact 07 3830 3300.

