

Cystoscopy and insertion of a ureteric stent

What is insertion of a ureteric stent?

Your ureter is a pipe running from your kidney to your bladder. It allows urine produced by your kidney to drain to your bladder.

Insertion of a ureteric stent is a procedure to place a long, thin, hollow, flexible plastic tube inside your ureter.

Why is insertion of a ureteric stent required?

A ureteric stent is inserted to unblock your ureter. Your ureter can become blocked due to:

- A kidney stone;
- Swelling after an operation;
- Scarring;
- Cancer; and
- Other causes.

If your ureter becomes blocked it can cause:

- Severe pain;
- Life-threatening infection; and
- Damage to your kidney.

The ureteric stent bypasses the blockage and allows urine to drain normally from your kidney to your bladder.

A ureteric stent also dilates (widens) your ureter over a few weeks. This makes it easier and safer to perform a ureteroscopy (pass a camera through your bladder into your ureter and kidney) a few weeks later if required.

What does insertion of a ureteric stent involve?

The procedure is performed under a general anaesthetic in a hospital.

We pass a cystoscope (a long narrow telescope) through your urethra (waterpipe) into your bladder. Through the cystoscope we pass a stent into your ureter.

The ureteric stent runs inside your ureter with the top curl sitting inside your kidney and the bottom curl sitting inside your bladder.

The procedure is usually performed as day surgery – you can go home on the same day as the procedure. You will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

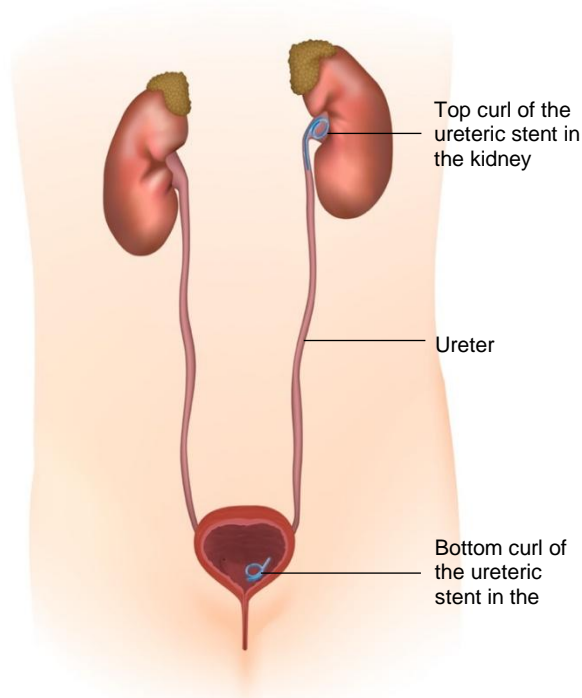
What is the recovery after a cystoscopy and insertion of ureteric stent?

You can usually return to all normal activity (including work, driving and exercise) within 1 to 2 days of the procedure.

While you have a ureteric stent, you may have:



A ureteric stent



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- Mild Burning/stinging when passing urine,
- Discomfort in your bladder,
- The need to pass urine more often than normal during the day and night,
- Blood in your urine; and/or
- Pain in your side, especially with vigorous activity or when passing urine.

These symptoms will resolve when the ureteric stent is removed.

What are the risks of insertion of ureteric stent?

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

Occasional risks (1/10 to 1/50):

- Urinary tract infection requiring antibiotics.
- Failure to insert the stent.

Rare risks (1/50 to 1/250):

- Significant bleeding in the urine requiring another procedure to correct.
- Damage to the urethra causing scarring.
- Temporary inability to pass urine after the procedure requiring a catheter.

Very rare risks (<1/250):

- Damage to the ureter requiring another procedure to correct.

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?

Alternatives to insertion of a ureteric stent include:

- Not treating the blockage.
- Insertion of a nephrostomy tube (a tube through the back directly into the kidney).

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

For appointments and enquiries please contact 07 3830 3300.

