Cystoscopy is a direct visual evaluation of the bladder and urethra. Some common reasons (but not all the reasons) that your doctor may want to perform this test include for the evaluation of recurrent bladder infections, for a failure to respond to medicines for overactive bladder, to look for possible bladder stones, and for the evaluation of blood in your urine. It is performed by placing a lighted telescope (cystoscope) through the urethra to examine the bladder. The lighted cystoscope is connected to a camera with the image of the inside of your bladder projected to a TV monitor. Your doctor will examine the bladder and urethra thoroughly to make sure there are no growths, bladder, stones or other abnormalities that can be treated. Your doctor will also look to see that the ureters (the tubes that carry urine from the kidney to the bladder) empty urine correctly into the bladder. The urethra is also examined for any abnormalities, such as a diverticulum (out-pouching) during the test.

The risks to the procedure are minimal. Primarily injury to the urethra and bladder, which are extremely rare. Most often you may experience burning with urination, as well as some frequency and urgency, for 12-24 hours. An anesthetic (lidocaine) gel will be used during the procedure to minimize the discomfort during and after the procedure. Drinking good amounts of water and emptying your bladder frequently will help these symptoms improve and go away. If these symptoms (burning, frequency, urgency) do not improve, or you think you have a bladder infection, please call our office and we will call in an antibiotic if appropriate. Our office number is 303-837-7682.