



Patient Instructions

Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor (TURBT)

A transurethral resection of bladder tumors (TURBT) is a surgery to remove one or more tumors (growths) from your bladder. Using a cystoscope, the doctor will insert a tool with a small wire loop at the end to remove the growth and burn (fulgurate) the base of the tumor.

Depending on the size of the bladder tumor and the extent of surgery, a catheter may be left in after surgery. A catheter is a tube placed in the bladder to drain your urine. You may have bladder discomfort or a sensation of fullness. Your nurse will make sure your bladder is draining properly, and may provide you with medications to help with these symptoms. Your catheter may need to be left in for a few days after surgery. Your nurse will show you how to care for your catheter at home.

After the surgery, the doctor may order a dose of chemotherapy medication to be instilled into the bladder to kill any remaining cells, and to decrease the chance of a recurrence of the tumor. In this case, when you are stable, you will be discharged from the surgery center and taken to the urology clinic. A treatment nurse will instill the medication into your bladder through the catheter. You may remain in the clinic for about 1 hour to allow the medication time to work in the bladder before you are discharged home.

You may notice blood in your urine (pink-red) for up to two weeks after surgery. Please contact your doctor if the bleeding becomes thick/dark or you have large clots. If you do not have a catheter in, or your catheter has just been removed, you may notice burning, frequency and urgency with urination. Please drink plenty of fluids.

Your activity restrictions will be related to the size of the bladder tumor and the extent of surgery. Your doctor will talk with you after the procedure about any specific activity restrictions.

Please contact your doctor if you develop a temperature above 101, severe pain, the catheter is not draining properly or you are unable to empty your bladder. Please call 249-3900 and ask to speak with a triage nurse.