

London Bridge Hospital

# BLUE LIGHT CYSTOSCOPY

- PHOTODYNAMIC ASSISTED  
BLADDER CANCER SURGERY

### How to find us:

London Bridge Hospital is situated on the South Bank of the Thames. We are next to London Bridge mainline and underground stations with easy access to the city. Please note: no right hand turn from Borough High street into Duke Street Hill.

31 Old Broad Street is situated on Old Broad Street in the heart of the city and next to Tower 42 (formerly the Natwest Tower).

### London Bridge Hospital

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Website [www.londonbridgehospital.com](http://www.londonbridgehospital.com)

### GP LIAISON

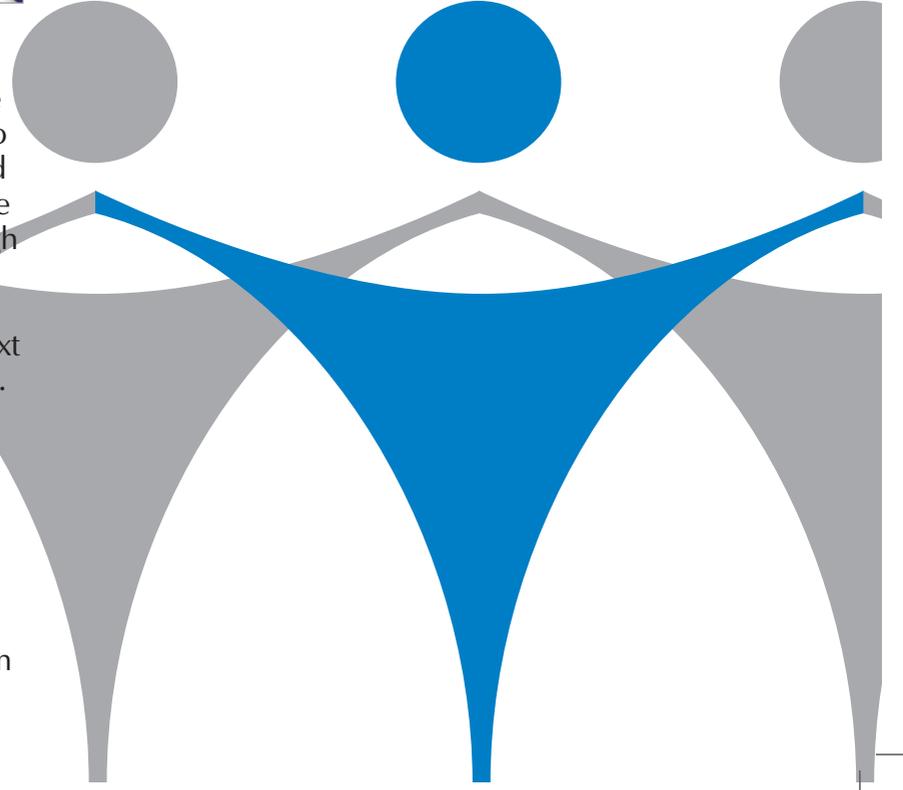
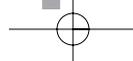
A service for GPs and patients who require assistance with referrals to consultants and Hospital services.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday

08.30-17.30hrs

Telephone: 020 7234 2009

Fax: 020 7234 2019



## BACKGROUND

The standard treatment of bladder tumours involves removal using endoscopes during procedures called cystoscopy and transurethral resection. The procedure is usually straightforward however, up to 40% of patients develop recurrent tumours in the bladder. It is now clear that up to half of these 'recurrences' may not in fact be new tumours but tumours that were not visualised and therefore not removed during the original operation.

A prerequisite of successful surgery is that surgeons need to be able to see as clearly as possible all the tumours which are present.

Photodynamic or 'blue light cystoscopy' is a technique which allows better visualisation of bladder tumours and therefore offers more certainty about the completeness of removal. Surgeons from London Bridge Hospital have driven the development of the technique in the UK and have been involved in pioneering work demonstrating its effectiveness.

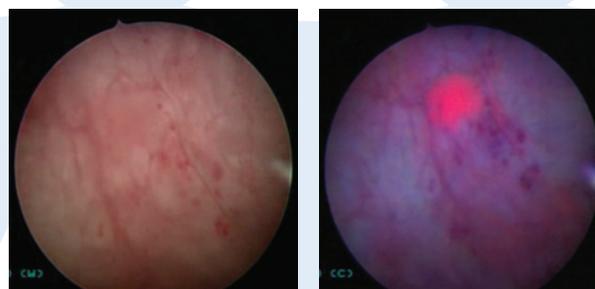
The technique can now be offered to all patients with suspected bladder cancer or to those undergoing check cystoscopies.

## What is involved ?

The procedure is straightforward. One hour prior to the cystoscopy, a fine catheter is passed down the urethra into the bladder. 50mls of Hexvix solution (the photosensitizer) is instilled in the bladder and the catheter is removed. After one hour the patient undergoes cystoscopy using modified endoscopes which illuminate the bladder with standard white light and ultraviolet light. Recovery from the procedure is the same as conventional cystoscopy.

## How does it work ?

The photosensitizer Hexvix is preferentially absorbed and concentrated in tumour tissue and then compared to normal tissue when illuminated under UV light. Tumour tissue fluoresces red allowing better discrimination between tumour and normal bladder lining. (See pictures below).



## Is it safe ?

After over 200 procedures the London Bridge Hospital surgeons have seen no adverse side effects from the technique or the Hexvix.

## After the operation ?

Patients are discharged on the day of surgery or on the day after surgery and will usually be seen in clinic within one week to discuss the results of any biopsies taken.

## More information etc

Consultations, more advice, videos, results etc. are available by contacting London Bridge Hospital Urology department.