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## **URETHRAL DIVERTICULECTOMY**

### **Definition**

A urethral diverticulum forms when glands which are connected to the urethral tube, (this tube carries urine from the bladder to the outside), become infected and swell. The infection subsides but the swollen gland remains forming a cavity which can collect urine or discharge. A diverticulum is a blind-ending pouch in the body. They are often difficult to diagnose because they may be quite small and changes on examination can be subtle.

### **Description of the Procedure**

The surgical treatment is to remove the dilated cavity during an operation called a DIVERTICULECTOMY. A cut is made on the front wall of the vagina and the cavity dissected out and removed. This can be quite a delicate operation and take a long time. The connection between the diverticulum and the urethra is closed with stitches. In order to rest the urethra a catheter is placed for one week. It is possible for you to go home with the catheter in place.

### **Complications**

Urinary tract infections are easily treated with antibiotics. Damage to tissues during the cystoscopy has been reported but are generally rare. Excessive bleeding is rare.

Very rarely an abnormal connection is formed during healing between the vagina and the urethral tube. This is called a fistula and may cause you to leak urine. It will require a further operation to close this connection.

### **Notify your Doctor if any of the following should occur.**

Blood in the urine, any signs of infection, fever chills, a general feeling of being unwell. Nausea or vomiting, pain or difficult urination.

**You may contact Dr Frazer on 5564 9300 if you have any problems**