

**For women**

BLADDER AND  
BOWEL DYSFUNCTION  
WHEN YOU HAVE A  
SPINAL CORD INJURY

Bladder and bowel dysfunction often has a major impact on the daily life. Finding a working routine will put you in control, providing the confidence you need to be able to do the things you love to do. In this booklet we have put together information about the urinary and digestive tracts, symptoms that can occur, and therapies that might help you managing your bladder and bowel. We hope that you will find it useful!

We would like to thank urotherapists and nurses in Scandinavia for their assistance with fact checking.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>The urinary tract and your health</b>	4
Urinary tract infections	5
How does the urinary tract work when you have a spinal cord injury?	6
Bladder management	9
Catheterization	11
What is Intermittent Catheterization (IC)?	12
How can IC solve your problem?	13
Instructions for performing IC	14
Real life stories	16
Good advice and tips	18
Checklist before starting IC	19
<b>How does the digestive tract work?</b>	20
How do the bowel work when you have a spinal cord injury?	21
Bowel management	23
What is transanal irrigation (TAI)?	24
Motivation and expectation	25
Real life stories	26
Benefits of a combined approach to bladder and bowel	29

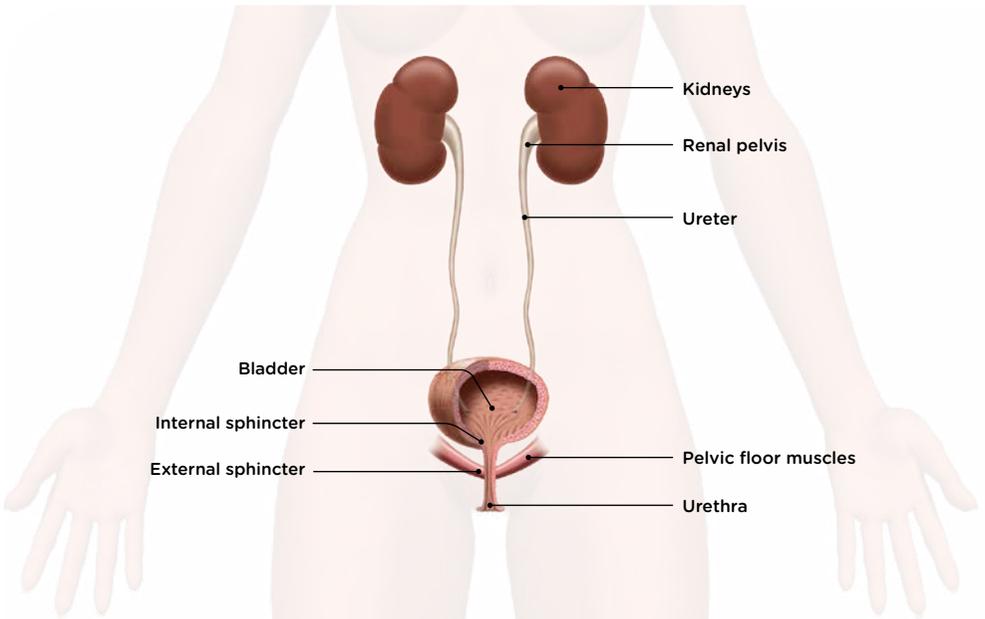


# THE URINARY TRACT AND YOUR HEALTH

**A healthy, functioning urinary tract is important to our well-being. In fact, our lives depend on it.**

The kidneys have two primary functions: eliminating waste products from the blood and regulating the body's salt and water balance. The kidneys excrete waste products in the form of urine. The urine is collected in the bladder, which serves as a reservoir. The bladder is actually a large muscle which can expand and contract.

The bladder volume shrinks, and the urine passes via the internal sphincter. It works like a safety valve and is either open or closed. When it is open, the urine can flow out and into the toilet. Bladder emptying is controlled by the central nervous system, coordinated by conscious and unconscious intent. Urine volume varies individually, but the norm is 200-400 ml each time and 1-2 liters every 24 hours. Most people urinate four to eight times a day.



# URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

**A neurogenic condition may affect bladder emptying, leaving the urinary system particularly vulnerable to complications.**

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are common in people with conditions affecting the ability to empty the bladder - completely or partially.

A UTI is a bacterial infection affecting some portions of the urinary tract. Urine contains a number of fluids, salts and waste products. Urine does not normally contain bacteria. When bacteria manages to enter the bladder or kidneys and multiply in the urine, they attack the bladder lining and cause a UTI.

Urinary tract infections are divided into asymptomatic and symptomatic UTIs. An asymptomatic UTI means you have bacteria in the urine without symptoms.

Bacteria in the urine without symptoms (see signs of symptomatic UTI) does not necessarily mean you have a UTI or require any antibiotic treatment.

Your HCP may ask you to provide a urine sample if you suspect a UTI, so you get the correct antibiotic.

## Signs of symptomatic UTI:

- Changes in bladder function
- Leakage/increased leakage
- Sweating/burning sensation when emptying the bladder
- Frequent urges
- Pain across the lower abdomen or back
- Blood in the urine
- Fever and/or general deterioration in your medical condition
- Increased spasticity (increased muscle tension)
- Increased autonomic reactions, such as sweating and chills

**If you have symptoms of a urinary tract infection - contact a healthcare professional for further medical advice.**

**Prevent UTI and download the STOP UTI app**



# HOW DOES THE URINARY TRACT WORK WHEN YOU HAVE A SPINAL CORD INJURY?

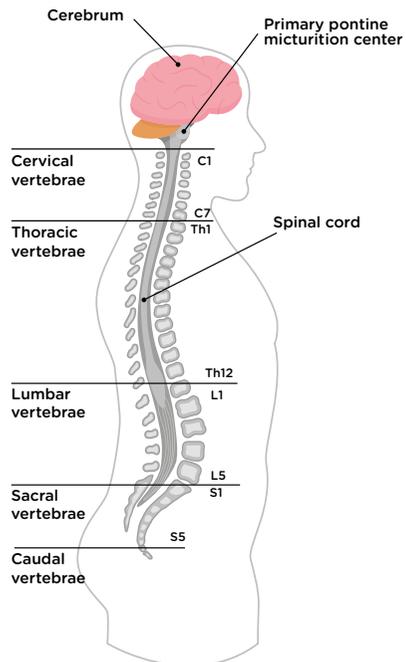
The spinal cord is approximately the width of one finger and very delicate. It is encased in a canal filled with fluid within the spinal column. The spinal cord contains cells which send and receive signals from the entire body. Thanks to these signals, we are able to move our arms, legs and other muscles in the body. These signals also control the passing of urine and stool.

In the event of a spinal cord injury, the connection between the brain and bladder becomes completely or partially severed. This often impairs bladder function, affecting the filling, emptying and control of the bladder.

Bladder dysfunction can be categorized as either: **overactive bladder** or **underactive bladder**.

**Overactive bladder** may develop in spinal cord injuries above thoracic vertebra 12 (Th12). The bladder pressure is high, but difficult to empty because the bladder and the urethra muscles fail to work together. This may cause kidney damage over the long term.

**Underactive bladder** may develop in the event of a spinal cord injury from thoracic vertebra 12 (Th12) or below. The bladder pressure is so low, it is incapable of contracting to empty, and the urethral sphincter is weak.



**Bladder dysfunction after a spinal cord injury can usually be categorized within these two groups:**

### **Overactive bladder**

**Once the spinal shock phase is over, people with a spinal cord injury above Th12 may develop spastic bladder.**

#### **Signs:**

- In the event of complete injury, the person loses sensation of bladder filling levels or the need to empty the bladder.
- In the event of partial injury, there may be a frequent urge to urinate, although the urge will be of a different nature than prior to the injury.
- Non-volitional contractions of the bladder may occur, the bladder muscle still has power to empty. This may lead to involuntary urine leakage (reflex bladder). The bladder volume shrinks.
- Residual urine: The bladder's ability to contract is insufficient to empty the bladder completely. This may lead to urinary incontinence and urinary tract infections.
- Bladder contractions against a closed urethra (detrusor sphincter-dyssynergia) lead to high pressure in the bladder with a risk for backflow up to the kidneys (reflux).

### **Underactive bladder**

**The connection with the central nervous system is broken. This results in a loss of reflexes.**

#### **Signs:**

- In the event of complete injury, the person loses sensation of bladder filling levels or the need to empty the bladder.
- The bladder muscle has little or no power to empty, resulting in a large quantity of residual urine in the bladder.
- The bladder is often distended and overfilled.
- Residual urine may lead to urinary incontinence and urinary tract infections.
- The pressure in the muscle is often low, and may lead to urinary incontinence with increased abdominal pressure, such as physical exertion, coughing and sneezing.



# BLADDER MANAGEMENT

## Three main treatment approaches:

- Preventing urine reflux and kidney damage
- Preventing complications, such as large quantities of residual urine and urinary tract infections
- Improving quality of life by reducing incontinence and frequent urges

## Management and treatment

Health care professionals can customize a treatment to handle your specific problems. For mild problems, the treatment normally begins with advice and tips on how to handle your problems.

## Bladder emptying

Bladder catheterization is a treatment, if you are having a difficult time emptying the bladder or the bladder does not empty adequately when you urinate (residual urine). There are two different catheterization methods: intermittent catheterization (IC) and a permanent catheter.

## Medicine

Medicines (tablets) are available to reduce urges to urinate. These relax the bladder muscle.

There is also a medicine, which is injected into the bladder muscle wall. This medicine may reduce the overactivity of the bladder. Self-catheterization will occasionally be necessary after the treatment because the

medicine is so effective, the bladder muscle is unable to contract to empty the bladder.

## Accessories aids

Incontinence protection is used for urine leakage. The protection should be tested and adapted to individual needs.

### These treatments are often combined:

- For example, medicine for calming an overactive bladder.
- Intermittent catheterization (IC). The bladder is emptied completely using a disposable catheter.
- Use of incontinence protection
- Bladder training and/or pelvic floor muscle training

Speak with your SCI doctor or nurse. There are many ways to improve your quality of life



# CATHETERIZATION

## **Catheter-assisted bladder emptying**

For a bladder that is unable to fully empty, catheterization is the solution. There are two different catheterization methods: Intermittent Catheterization (IC) and a permanent catheter, often referred to as an "indwelling catheter". IC is the first-line choice and involves emptying the bladder regularly with a disposable catheter.<sup>1,2</sup>

## **The benefits of IC<sup>1,2</sup>**

There are many benefits of using IC compared to using a permanent catheter. The purpose of IC is to empty your bladder completely on a regular basis and prevent UTIs, urine leakage and frequent urges to urinate. Using IC supports a sexually active life.

## **Indwelling catheters**

An indwelling catheter will drain urine from the bladder continuously as the catheter remains in place for many days or weeks. It is held in position by an inflated balloon in the bladder. The catheter can be inserted either through your urethra (urethral indwelling catheter) or through a little hole in your abdomen and into your bladder (suprapubic catheter).

### **There are many benefits to IC with a disposable catheter, including<sup>1,2</sup>:**

- **Protection of the lower and upper urinary tract**
- **Complete emptying of the bladder, reducing the risk of a urinary tract infection**
- **Improvement in quality of life by reducing incontinence and frequent urges**

# WHAT IS INTERMITTENT CATHETERIZATION?



**Intermittent Catheterization (IC) is a method for emptying the bladder regularly using a disposable catheter. The method is effective whether you have problems storing urine, or emptying the bladder.**

## How IC works

IC involves inserting a catheter into the bladder regularly to drain the urine. This helps the bladder empty completely. When the bladder is empty, the catheter is removed and discarded. Most people learn how to self-catheterize very quickly. With a little training, it only takes a few minutes.<sup>2-4</sup>

IC may sound a little scary, difficult or uncomfortable. As with any new technique, practice makes perfect. Thousands of women, men and children around the world use self-catheterization every day. It also prevents the risk of kidney damage and urinary tract infections.<sup>1,2</sup>

## How often?

The number of catheterizations depends on the urine quantity. The urine quantity should not exceed 400 ml on each occasion. The number of times the catheterization must be performed varies individually and depend upon fluid intake. IC is normally performed four to six times per day, rarely at night.

## The purpose of treatment<sup>2</sup>

- Prevent urine reflux and kidney damage
- Prevent complications, such as large quantities of residual urine and urinary tract infections
- Improve quality of life by reducing incontinence and frequent urges

# HOW CAN IC SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM?

## **Reduce the risk of urinary tract infections**

Complete emptying of the bladder reduces the risk of a urinary tract infection.<sup>1,2</sup> To prevent urinary tract infections, you should empty your bladder completely on a regular basis.

## **Improve your quality of life**

Minimizing the risk of urinary tract infections and/or incontinence can help you lead a more fuller life, free from worrying about embarrassing urine odor or wet clothes. This can give you better control and improve the quality of your life. When the bladder is emptied completely, visits to the toilet also become less frequent.

## **Save time**

Many people need to sit on the toilet for a long time to empty the bladder, or need to return after having just gone. IC only takes a few minutes, and you empty the bladder completely.

## **Prevent incontinence and frequent urges to urinate**

Emptying your bladder completely on a regular basis will help you avoid leakage and frequent urges to urinate. An overfilled bladder may cause uncontrolled leakage.

## **Maintain normal kidney function**

Emptying your bladder completely on a regular basis prevents kidney damage, especially if you have a neurological disorder causing abnormal bladder pressure.

# HOW TO PERFORM IC

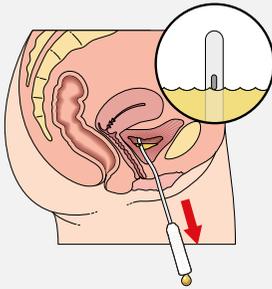
1. Prepare your catheter so it is ready to use.



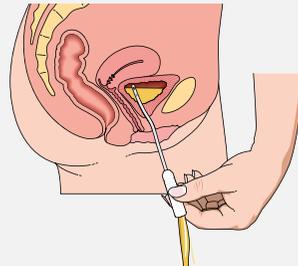
2. Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after catheterization. Touch the the catheter tube as little as possible after you have washed your hands, before self-catheterization.



3. Spread the labia and lift slightly to locate the urethra.



4. Slowly insert the catheter into the urethra. When urine starts to flow, push the catheter one or two centimeters further in.



5. When the urine flow stops, slowly remove the catheter a little. If urine starts flowing again, wait for it to stop completely, then remove.



**When you start self-catheterizing it is helpful to use a mirror to help finding the urethra.**

**Find a position you are comfortable with and use any accessories you need.**



In the beginning it can be helpful to use a mirror to localize the urethra. After some practice you can find the urethra by feeling it with your finger.



Sometimes it is easier to find the urethra if you stand up.



Spread the labia and insert the catheter. Drain the urine in the toilet.



If you are in a wheelchair a urine bag or a kit product, such as LoFric Hydro-Kit, can be of use.



This is an example of emptying the bladder using an extension. A tips would be to put the tube between the toilet base and the toilet seat, to keep it still.



# REAL LIFE STORIES

## GUNILLA ÅHRÉN - User of LoFric catheters.

**"Considering I am missing one hand and have a spinal cord injury, figuring out how to self-catheterize was a challenge, to put it mildly. This is why sharing experiences is so important. After 27 years, I'm still learning.**

After I suffered the injury, performing intermittent catheterization (IC) on myself felt like a giant obstacle. I was always fixated on making sure I had regular access to a toilet, and anxious because I knew it would take a long time and I would get frustrated. Doing this up to five times per day was a headache! My catheter works best for me, because the packaging is simple and easy to use.

Since I'll be self-catheterizing for the rest of my life, not having too many stages in the process is important.

It's good that the catheter is prefilled, easily activated and easy to open, so it doesn't feel like a difficult procedure, and it really works!

It has been a journey - in the beginning it was extremely difficult but now I'm not concerned about it at all. When I started, I always self-catheterized in bed. With practice, I learned to do this sitting in a chair, and now I am able to self-catheterize anywhere. On the occasions where I do not have access to a toilet, I take a collection bag with me.

Yes, it is a major headache - I'm not going to minimize that, but over time comes familiarity and the task feels less daunting; self-catheterization is just a part of my routine now."



## GOOD ADVICE AND TIPS

### **Drinking**

The body generally needs 1.5-2 liters of fluid intake daily. This fluid flushes the bladder and reduces the risk of urinary tract infection.

### **Good hygiene**

Daily hygiene in the genital area is recommended. It is wise to use hand sanitizer before self-catheterization in a public restroom.

### **Catheterizing frequencies**

Your urotherapist/nurse will advise you on how often to catheterize. The normal frequency is 4-6 times a day. It varies from person to person, depending upon your specific bladder issues, how much you drink, how much urine you pass each time and whether you can urinate without a catheter. As a general rule, the bladder should not contain more than 400 ml of urine. To avoid complications, follow the recommendations given to you during training.

### **Empty your bladder completely**

You can do this by changing your body position while the catheter is still in your bladder. Withdraw the catheter slowly to empty all of the urine. Don't be in a hurry. Residual urine inside the bladder increases

the risk of urinary tract infection.

The bladder is emptied most effectively while sitting or standing.

### **Difficulty inserting the catheter**

If you are tense, the sphincter muscle around your urethra may tighten up, making it more difficult to insert the catheter. Don't try to force the catheter in. Find a good position, cough a little and relax. Try to reinsert the catheter. When you start the treatment, you may see a little blood in your urine or on the catheter. This is usually caused by urethra irritation. It usually clears up very soon, but if in doubt, contact your urotherapist or nurse.

### **When travelling**

Carry your catheters and accessories with you when you travel. Since there is always a slight risk of luggage getting lost, always keep a few days' supply of catheters in your hand luggage. To avoid problems at customs, you can order a Medical Validation Certificate from your urotherapist/nurse or contact us at Wellspect HealthCare.

**[Read more about traveling with catheters at wellspect.com](https://www.wellspect.com)**

# CHECKLIST BEFORE STARTING IC

To make sure that you have all the information you need to get started with and maintain self-catheterization, you can use this checklist. Fill it in together with your nurse.

## Information about IC

Contact healthcare: .....

Clinic: ..... Telephone: .....

Catheter selection, LoFric ..... CH: ..... Length: .....cm

Number of catheterizations per day: .....

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What can cause bladder emptying problems? | <input type="checkbox"/> Adapting emptying intervals individually                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urinary tract anatomy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information on complications, such as urinary tract infections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Normal functioning of the urinary tract   | <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate catheters and any other accessories                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits of IC                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical advice   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training in the IC method                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing IC under supervision           |   |

## Follow-up on IC

Contact healthcare: .....

Clinic: ..... Telephone: .....

Catheter selection, LoFric ..... CH: ..... Length: .....cm

Number of catheterizations per day: .....

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To adapt the emptying interval<br>- review your micturition list   | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical information about changes in the product line and current web sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IC technique repetition  | <input type="checkbox"/> Any complications   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up on the affect IC treatment has on everyday life/quality of life<br>- correct catheter?<br>- correct emptying interval? | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical advice, for example   |



# HOW DOES THE DIGESTIVE TRACT WORK?

**The entire digestive tract in a human body is nine meters in length. Once we have chewed and swallowed the food, it is transported through the stomach to the bowel.**

## How the digestive tract works

After the food is divided into small pieces in the stomach, it passes through the small intestine, where the primary function is to absorb nutrition. The food then continues through the colon. The colon receives approximately 1.5 liters of fluid per day from the small intestine, and absorbs salts and the majority of the water, which is transformed to approximately 150-200 ml feces.

The feces are transported with the help of bowel movements. The passage through the colon takes approximately 1-3 days. The feces are stored in the rectum until a signal is sent to the brain indicating it's time to tend to its needs, then passed through the rectum.

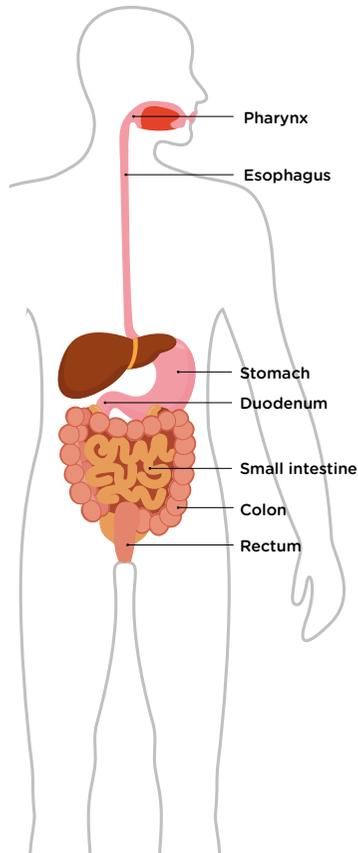
## Passing stools

Passing stools is controlled by the brain and spinal cord nerve signals. When a signal arrives from the brain that the bowels need to be emptied, the process for passing stools begins.

Contractions in the diaphragm (bowel movements) increase the pressure in the abdomen and release the peristalsis in the

colon and rectum, causing the sphincter to relax and open the rectum.

It is normal to pass stools from three times per week to three times per day.



# HOW DOES THE BOWEL WORK WHEN YOU HAVE A SPINAL CORD INJURY?

**The digestive tract is controlled by the nervous system which runs through the spinal cord up to the brain. Bowel function may be affected, if the nerve paths are cut off, due to disease or injury affecting the central nervous system.**

The injury completely or partially affects the voluntary control over the sphincter, which controls stool and gas release. Other things affecting the bowel include changes in mobility as a result of a disability, fatigue and/or medication use.

Neurogenic bowel dysfunction may lead to constipation, bowel leakage and bowel movement disorders. Constipation may also complicate bladder emptying. Studies demonstrate constipation leads to an increased frequency of urinary tract infections.

## Constipation

**The bowel movements are slower and more irregular in people with neurogenic bowel dysfunction. Common symptoms are hard and dry feces, combined with an "upset stomach" and gas.**

### Signs

- You may still feel the emptying was not complete. This may be due to the sphincter failing to relax when the feces are in the rectum and it is time to pass stools. Consequently, it takes a long time to pass stool. This may even cause hemorrhoids, which may be painful and bleed slightly.
- The musculature is more relaxed, making it more difficult to empty the bowel completely.
- Difficult to squeeze with the stomach muscles.

## Bowel leakage

**Bowel leakage is another common problem for people with neurogenic bowel dysfunction. It is a condition where stools are passed involuntarily.**

### Signs

- The voluntary control over the sphincter disappears completely or partially, depending upon whether the injury is complete or incomplete.
- A weak sphincter muscle which does not have enough strength to retain feces gathered in the lower portion of the bowel.
- Constipation may cause incontinence. Watery feces run past the hard feces, causing leakage. It is not uncommon to be affected by both of these problems at the same time.



# BOWEL MANAGEMENT

## First treatment option - conservative treatment

### Diet

Diet is important, because certain foods cause a loose stool and others cause constipation. Regular meals and normal amounts of fluid and fiber intake are known to be important.

### Exercise

Regular exercise helps to get bowel movements started.

### Medication

There are various medications, which help the bowel to better movement and fecal consistency, making it easier to pass stools.

### Toilet training

Sitting on the toilet regularly for a certain period of time each day may help. Look for the signal, and go when the signal arrives, don't wait. If you do not receive any signal, go anyway.

### Mini-enema

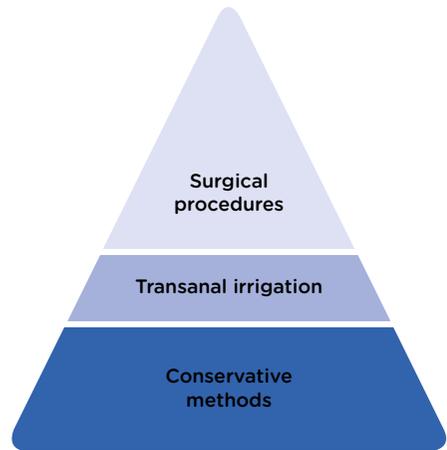
A mini-system may suffice for many patients, where you inject approximately 100 ml of water to empty the rectum. For patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction, the mini-system may be offered at an early stage. If the effect is inadequate, the patients may switch to a transanal irrigation system.

## Second treatment option - Transanal irrigation (TAI)

Transanal irrigation is the next step. TAI is an often overlooked therapy. This method effectively empties the bowel. Instilling water into the colon using a rectal catheter or cone starts the peristaltic movements of the bowel, so stools may be passed. This therapy can save a lot of time and reduce frustration when conservative methods do not give the desired results.

## Third treatment option - surgery

Higher up in the pyramid, you see options like antegrade irrigation, electrical stimulation or colostomy.



Treatment pyramid

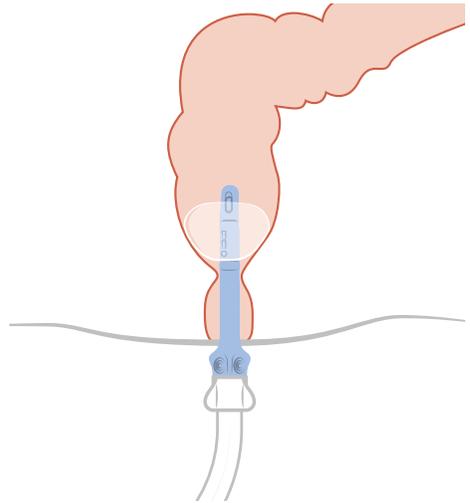
# WHAT IS TRANSANAL IRRIGATION?

**Transanal irrigation (TAI) is a technique for emptying the bowel effectively. The process involves easing the emptying of the rectum and the lower portion of the colon by instilling water into the bowel.**

Regular bowel irrigation empties the colon and rectum so effectively that the lower portion of the bowel remains empty until the next irrigation. Not only does TAI prevent leakage, it also allows for choosing the time and place to empty the bowel. The instillation of water also starts the peristaltic movement, preventing constipation. Other important benefits of TAI are that you do not have to spend so much time and energy caring for your bowel, freeing up time for other pursuits.

## **No more accidents**

When the training period is complete and the bowel have adjusted to TAI, the general goal is to irrigate every other day. At this stage, you should have developed a routine for passing stools where you avoid constipation and incontinence. The purpose of TAI is to restore good and regular bowel function, so you can live normally.



**Water is inserted into the intestine through a rectal catheter or cone.**



## MOTIVATION AND EXPECTATION

Motivation and patience are essential. Prepare and give yourself time to change habits, both mentally and physically, and the bowel to adapt to your new routines. You also need time to find your optimal treatment parameters.

It is important to have realistic expectations of what TAI can do

for you and how long it may take to achieve satisfactory results. A commitment of up to 4-12 weeks may be necessary in order to stabilize the bowel and to develop a good individualized defecation routine.

**Give it time. It is worth it!**

## TRAINING IS KEY

Education and personalization are key to success in TAI, and comprehensive training is very important when you start. Ideally, your healthcare provider should guide you through your first session.

TAI is proven effective, however previous ways of performing the therapy have sometimes been perceived as complicated by users. Therefore, making TAI easier to learn and perform were the main focal points when developing Navina™ Irrigation Systems.

# REAL LIFE STORIES

## ELKE PETERS - User of Navina™ Smart

**Elke is 60 years old. She has a full social life, is active in her leisure time and exercises several times per week. Else was involved in an accident at the age of three and sustained an incomplete spinal cord injury. She has been using a wheelchair since 1993.**



A couple of years ago, she began having trouble emptying the bowel. This resulted in bowel leakage.

Elke used a water enema system in the past to handle the fecal problem, which didn't work as intended. The bowels were not emptied adequately and subsequently she had accidents or leakage between using the enemas. Elke decided to stop using it. A nurse suggested she try Navina Smart, an electronic device, instead.

The first time Elke used Navina Smart, she felt a bubbling sensation up in the left portion of the colon. When it was time to empty the bowel, it came out with force, both water and feces, which gave her a sense the bowel was completely empty. Elke now has a more comfortable feeling in her stomach and feels confident in social settings.

"It's upsetting when an accident with fecal leakage happens and you're away from home. Using irrigation is good for you. You can feel confident when you're out and don't have access to a toilet. It provides a sense of security and an improvement in quality of life."



## RENÉE TORNDAHL - User of Navina™ Classic

**"To begin with, I used an anal plug to prevent leaks, and oral and anal laxatives. That was okay - but just okay. I was constantly constipated and had fecal leakage. I also had nausea because I wasn't able to empty the bowel completely.**

One time, during a rehabilitation trip to Calpe, I was sitting together with my colleague Kent, when a foul odor began to fill the room. Neither of us commented on the odor, but we both began to squirm. This was a smell we both recognized all too well. Finally, Kent slipped out into the kitchen and through the kitchen window he saw a septic tank vehicle out in front on the street. Relieved, he rolled back to me with a reassuring message: we were not the cause this time!

I have used transanal irrigation (TAI) for approximately one year. The method is safe, easy-to-use and leaves me feeling completely emptied. I never have fecal leakage or any other unpleasant symptoms related to my bowel.

Now I empty myself every other day with Navina Classic. It takes approximately 15-20 minutes. In the past, I performed my bowel routine in the evening, then showered afterwards. Now I do this after breakfast instead - it supports the bowel's regular routine. When I sit on the toilet, I put paper down on the toilet to avoid the "stench", which means I no longer have to shower after visiting the toilet.

Going to the toilet feels "normal" to me. One important piece of advice I would share is: keep calm and give TAI time, then you will see a difference."





## “I RATE A FUNCTIONING BOWEL AND BLADDER HIGHER THAN MY ABILITY TO WALK”

Bladder and bowel dysfunctions often appear together. In a lot of cases, these symptoms coexist and interact. If you have a neurogenic condition, they can have a huge impact upon quality of life. If bladder symptoms are getting worse, this often also means the bowel symptoms will also. But they are rarely addressed together, even though it may be beneficial for the outcome.

### **These are some examples of how bladder and bowel interact in patients with a SCI**

#### **Urinary leakage due to constipation**

Constipation can cause urinary urge incontinence and increased frequency due to mechanical pressure on the bowel.

#### **Neurological interactions**

Bladder and bowel functions are neurologically controlled in the same way, both centrally and locally.

#### **Pharmaceutical interactions**

Anticholinergics for reducing bladder symptoms and opioid use may worsen constipation issues. This is one example of how treatments can interact.

### **A combined treatment approach**

**Therapies that relieve one of these conditions often relieve the other at the same time.**

A combined treatment approach increases the effectiveness of each therapy, and regaining control of both your bladder and bowel will significantly improve your quality of life. Ask your healthcare provider for more information.

# WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GETTING A GOOD START?

- Learn more about your body and different diagnoses
- Discover the benefits of Intermittent Catheterization (IC) with LoFric
- Get informed about how transanal irrigation (TAI) with Navina Irrigation System can help you regain bowel control
- Watch instruction videos
- Read user testimonials

**You will find all this and more at: [wellspect.com](https://wellspect.com)**



## Contact us

If you have any questions or need more information about LoFric and Navina Irrigation System and our user support programs, do not hesitate to contact us directly.

**You will find all contact details on [wellspect.com](http://wellspect.com)**

## References

- Lamin and Newman. Int Urol Nephrol. 2016;48:931-9.
- Vahr et al. EAUN guideline urethral intermittent catheterization. EAUN 2013.
- Chartier-Castler E, Denys P. Neurology and Urodynamics 2011;30:21-31.
- Li L et al. Arch Phys Med Rehab 2013;94:782-7.

At Wellspect we develop innovative continence care solutions that improve quality of life for people with bladder and bowel problems. We inspire our users to build self-confidence and independence as well as good health and well-being. We have been leading the industry for over 40 years with our product brands LoFric® and Navina™. We always aim to minimize the environmental impact of our products and passionately strive to become climate neutral. We work together with users and healthcare professionals to improve clinical outcome in a sustainable way, now and for the future.

### Wellspect. A Real Difference.

For more information about our products and services, please visit [Wellspect.com](https://wellspect.com).

Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## wellspect.com

Wellspect HealthCare,

Aminogatan 1, P.O. Box 14, SE-431 21 Mölndal, Sweden. Phone: +46 31 376 40 00.

### Navina Irrigation System

#### Intended use

Navina Irrigation System is intended for Transanal Irrigation by instilling water up into the lower part of the colon through a rectal catheter.

#### Indications

The Navina Irrigation System is indicated to help adults and children from 3 years who suffer from fecal incontinence, chronic constipation, and/or time consuming bowel management. By instilling water up into the lower part of the colon, the peristaltic muscles in the bowel can be triggered and start to evacuate the content of the lower colon and rectum.

#### Contraindications

Do NOT use Navina Irrigation System if you have one or more of the following:

- Known anal or colorectal stenosis
- Active inflammatory bowel disease
- Acute diverticulitis
- Colorectal cancer
- Ischemic colitis
- You are within three months of anal or colorectal surgery
- You are within 4 weeks of previous endoscopic polypectomy

As the list may not be exhaustive, healthcare professionals will always consider individual user factors as well. Before use see Instructions for Use.



Manufacturer: Wellspect  
HealthCare, Aminogatan 1, P.O. Box  
14, SE-431 21 Mölndal, Sweden.  
Phone: +46 31 376 40 00. [www.wellspect.com](https://www.wellspect.com)

