

Ureteroscopy for stone removal

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Nephrolithiasis - is a condition where a stone is attempted to be passed from the the kidney down the ureter. The stone often blocks the kidney and doesn't allow for urine to pass in the bladder. This causes a build up of pressure which can cause considerable pain. Patients begin having symptoms including flank pain, fevers, chills, nausea or vomiting.

Indications for surgery:

1. Poor control of pain
2. Nausea and Vomiting
3. One kidney
4. Fevers
5. Request of the patient to proceed with intervention

Treatment includes:

Using a scope through the urethra and then passing a smaller scope up into the ureter to either break up the kidney stone into smaller pieces in order to allow them to pass or pulling the stone out whole by using a basket. The ureter often will need to be dilated in order to allow the passage of the ureteroscope. Often there is considerable edema where the stone has been. When this happens often the patient may have more discomfort after surgery because the swelling blocks the flow of urine. Because of this often it is necessary to leave a stent in place. The stent allows for the swelling to subside and for the ureter to heal. The stent will often be removed in 5-7 days. **THE STENT MUST BE REMOVED EVENTUALLY AS IT CAN CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE KIDNEY OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.**

Symptoms of having a stent in place.

1. frequency
2. burning with urination
3. flank pain when attempting to urinate
4. blood in the urine

What to expect after the surgery:

1. You will likely be discharged that evening
2. You may resume all home medications including anticoagulants. Your doctor will likely keep you on your anticoagulation around the time of surgery.
3. It is common to have pain with urination for several days.
4. You will be sent home with pain medicine.
5. You may also have the urge to urinate very frequently. This will also improve slowly over time.

Call the office if the following conditions occur:

1. You have a temperature greater than 101.5
2. You begins having blood clots in your urine
3. Nausea and vomiting