

URETEROSCOPY AND LASER STONE SURGERY

WHO IS SUITABLE FOR URETEROSCOPY AND LASER STONE SURGERY?

Those experiencing symptoms related to kidney stones including

Back or flank pain

Sweating and nausea

Blood in the urine

Those who have tried other non-surgical treatments that have not worked

Those who have kidney stones that are too large to pass without intervention.

Stones less than 1.5cm in size

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF URETEROSCOPY AND LASER STONE SURGERY?

No skin incisions are required

Ureteroscopy gives the surgeon a very clear view of the urinary tract

Moses technology allows for virtually any stone type to be broken

Shorter hospital stay and faster recovery, compared to traditional kidney stone surgery (PCNL). PCNL is generally reserved for patients with a larger stone burden

HOW IS URETEROSCOPY AND LASER STONE SURGERY PERFORMED?



The procedure is performed under general anaesthetic and may take up to an hour to complete

A small telescopic instrument (ureteroscope) is passed into the urethra and bladder, then into the ureter and kidney

The stone is located and the holmium laser combined with Moses technology are used to break it up

Larger stone fragments may need to be removed by the surgeon whilst smaller, sand-like fragments remain to be gradually passed through the urine

In some cases, a temporary stent is placed in the ureter in order to keep it open and help any remaining stone fragments to pass

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER URETEROSCOPY AND LASER STONE SURGERY?



The recovery is done at home, with normal light activities able to resume as soon as the next day. If you have a stent in place, you will need to return to have it removed after a week or so.

During this time it is not uncommon to see some blood in the urine in the days following the procedure. You may also feel the urge to urinate frequently.

It is important to drink plenty of water to help with flushing the stone fragments out through the urine.

PROCEDURE OUTCOMES



Most patients will still have some discomfort in the

flank area or bladder for a few days following the procedure

Moses technology and high-powered holmium laser allows the large majority of patients to be treated with one procedure

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Reeves, T., Pietropaolo, A., Somani, B.K., (2020), Ureteroscopy and laser stone fragmentation is safe and tends to improve renal function in patients with chronic kidney disease: Prospective outcomes with a minimum follow-up of 6 months, journal of Endourology, 34(4), [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31891664/>], accessed 25/02/21.