Ureteric stent insertion

Information for patients

This sheet answers common questions about having a ureteric stent. If you would like further information, or have any particular worries, please do not hesitate to ask your nurse or doctor.

In all cases, a doctor will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you may have.

What is a ureteric stent?
A ureteric stent is a soft plastic hollow tube, like a straw, which is inserted into the tube (called the ureter) between your kidney and bladder to improve the drainage of urine. Stents are inserted after operations such as stone removal.

What is the benefit of a stent?
A stent ensures there is drainage of urine from the kidney to the bladder after your operation.

What are the risks of stents?

Common (more than 1 in 10)
- burning or discomfort on passing urine.
- blood in your urine
- discomfort in your back when you move or pass urine
- increased frequency of passing urine and in rare cases the inability to empty your bladder, requiring temporary placement of a catheter (tube through the water pipe to the bladder)

Occasional (1 in 30)
- urine infection needing antibiotics
- inability to insert or remove the stent – a different procedure will be performed if this occurs

Rare (1 in 50)
- delayed bleeding and clot formation needing more surgery to remove clot and stop the bleeding
- injury to the urethra (water pipe) causing delayed scar formation or to the ureter bladder or kidney
After the procedure

- When you get home you should drink plenty of fluid.
- You can pass urine as normal
- You may find that when you pass urine it stings or burns or is blood stained.
- You may want to pass urine more frequently, have tummy pain, pain in the back and sometimes men experience some pain at the tip of the penis. These symptoms are common and are not a cause for concern. They usually settle within a few days of having the stent, but can continue for the duration that you have a stent.
- Stent symptoms can be managed with simple over the counter pain relief medication (eg paracetamol or ibuprofen) as well as more specialised medications such as tamsulosin and solifenacin. You may be prescribed these by your urologist or GP. Antibiotics are not necessary unless an infection is proven.
- Sometimes you make experience severe pain and the stent will needed to be removed.

How will my stent be removed?
You will receive either an out-patient appointment or a date for a procedure to remove or change your stent to a new one with an anaesthetic.

Ureteric stents can be removed as a day case under local anaesthetic (you are awake for the procedure). A telescope is inserted into the bladder via the urethra, and the end of the stent is grasped and removed. If you have a tethered stent this will be removed by a doctor gently pulling on the strings.

Stents are usually removed from a few days to a few weeks after being inserted, or during your planned kidney stone operation. If the stent or replaced, this will ideally be carried out within 5 months after insertion.

If you have not heard from us with a date for your stent removal or change please contact us on 020 7317 7721 extension 33068 or email: rf.stone@nhs.net.

Information about your stent – please complete

Patient’s name:

Date of birth:

Hospital number:

Consultant in charge:

Date stent inserted:
Left □ Right □

Details of stent removal date and location:
Contact information
Urology department

- Phone: **020 7317 7721** extension **33068** and choose option 3 ‘kidney stone team’
- Email: **rf.stone@nhs.net**

More information
For more information about the urology service at the Royal Free London visit our website:  
[www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/urology](http://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/urology)

Your feedback
If you have any feedback on this leaflet or for a list of references for it, please email:  
[rf.communications@nhs.net](mailto:rf.communications@nhs.net).

Alternative formats
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