

Ureteral Stent

Introduction

A ureter is a tube inside your body that drains urine from the kidney to the bladder. If a ureter is blocked, the urine will not drain properly. When this happens, the kidney overfills and swells. This is called hydronephrosis. Hydronephrosis can be caused by a tumor pushing on a ureter, kidney stones, or scar tissue.

A ureteral stent is a thin tube that is placed in a ureter to help drain urine from the kidney. (Figure 1). One end of the tube sits inside the kidney, and one end sits in the bladder. These tubes can be connected to the bladder inside the body, or connected to a drainage bag outside the body.

Ureteral stents can be used for several weeks, months or even years. They are used to:

- Bypass a blockage.
- Redirect the flow of urine away from an area of leakage.
- Keep a ureter open.

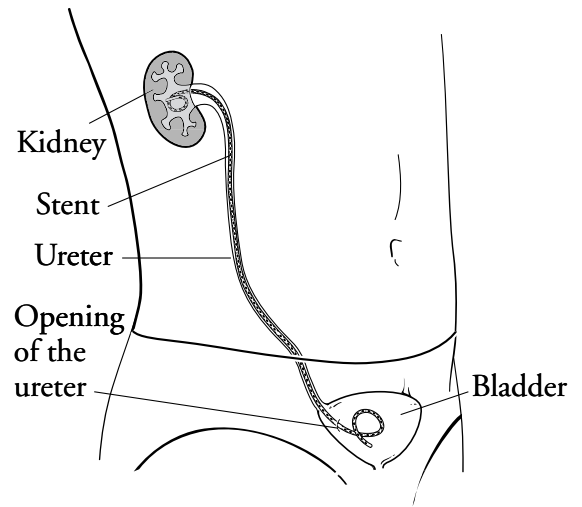


Figure 1

The Procedure

This procedure is done in the Surgical Day Hospital or in the Department of Interventional Radiology.

- An intravenous (IV) needle will be inserted into a vein. You will get fluid through your IV. You will also get medicines through the IV to help reduce any discomfort and make you sleepy.
- A thin flexible tube called a cystoscope will be inserted into the urethra (the small tube that carries urine from your bladder to outside the body). It will then be moved through the bladder to the ureter and up into the kidney.

After Your Procedure

- After the procedure, you will be taken to the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). A nurse will check your pulse, breathing, and blood pressure regularly.
- Your doctor may prescribe pain medication to help you feel more comfortable.
- You will remain in the PACU until you are fully awake.
- Your nurse will review your discharge instructions before you go home.

Home Instructions

- You may resume your normal activities in 24 hours.
- After the stent is first placed or after it is replaced, you may feel a “pulling” sensation during urination. You may also have:
 - Frequent urination – the need to urinate more often than usual.
 - Urgent urination – a strong, sudden urge to urinate, along with discomfort in your bladder.
 - Pelvic pain – pain in the lower abdomen.

These symptoms usually go away with time. Your doctor or nurse will talk to you about what symptoms you might feel. Your doctor may give you medication to help with pain.

- You may see blood in your urine every now and then while you have the stent. Sometimes this happens after increased activity or long car rides.
- Your stent must be replaced on average, every 3 to 6 months. Your doctor or nurse will tell you when this becomes necessary. Stents left in place for too long can lead to blockage, stone formation, or infections.

Call Your Doctor Or Nurse If You Have:

- Chills or a fever over 101° F (38.3° C).
- Burning feeling during urination.
- Cloudy urine.
- A foul smell to your urine.
- Pain on either side of your abdomen, or kidney area.
- Any questions or concerns.

Important Telephone Numbers

Doctor _____

Telephone _____

Nurse _____

Telephone _____

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.



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