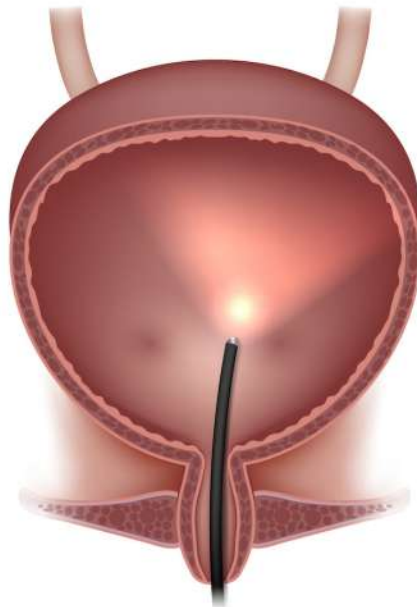


Ureterorenoscopy

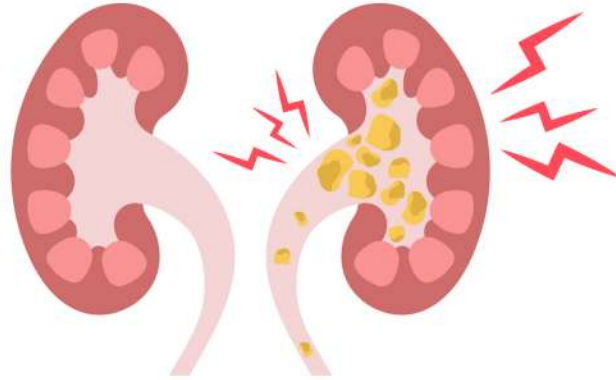
What is Ureterorenoscopy?

This is a procedure whereby an instrument is placed, via the urethra into the bladder, and subsequently into the ureter and kidney for purposes of diagnosis (visualizing and obtaining biopsy), as well as for therapy e.g. laser treatment of stones.



Why Do I Need This Surgery?

You might have a stone in the ureter or kidney that requires treatment or an abnormal growth in the ureter that needs to be further investigated.



What are the Preparations?

If general anaesthesia is planned, a period of fasting would be necessary. You may sometimes be asked to withhold any blood thinning medications, such as Aspirin, Ticlopidine, Clopidogrel, Warfarin, or other medications.



How is the Surgery Performed?

An instrument is placed via the urethra into the bladder, and subsequently into the ureter for purposes of diagnosis (visualizing and obtaining biopsy), as well as for therapy e.g. laser treatment of stones.

In order to perform a ureterorenoscope safely, sometimes a staged procedure is required to first place a stent in the ureter to open up and allow safe insertion of a ureteric sheath in subsequent access to the kidney.

After the procedure, a ureteric stent may be inserted.

What are the Risks and Complications of the Surgery?

Common (5%):

- Mild burning or bleeding on passing urine, usually lasts for 1-2 days
- Insertion of ureteral stent may be necessary, and a further procedure to remove it

Occasional (<5%):

- Failure to obtain access to the ureter e.g. ureter is too tortuous or narrow/tight
- Inability for scope to reach to where the stone/tumour is or migration of stone back into the kidney out of reach of the scope
- Temporary insertion of a bladder catheter may be required
- Infection which might require antibiotic treatment

Rare (<1%):

- Equipment failure (due to the delicate nature of equipment)
- Damage to ureter (avulsion, perforation) with need for stent insertion or open operation)

What Would I Expect After The Surgery?

It is common to experience mild burning discomfort and even bleeding (haematuria) after ureteroscopy. This usually goes away within 2 days. One might also experience pain in the flank, which usually gets better in 1-2 days.

Painkillers may be prescribed where necessary.



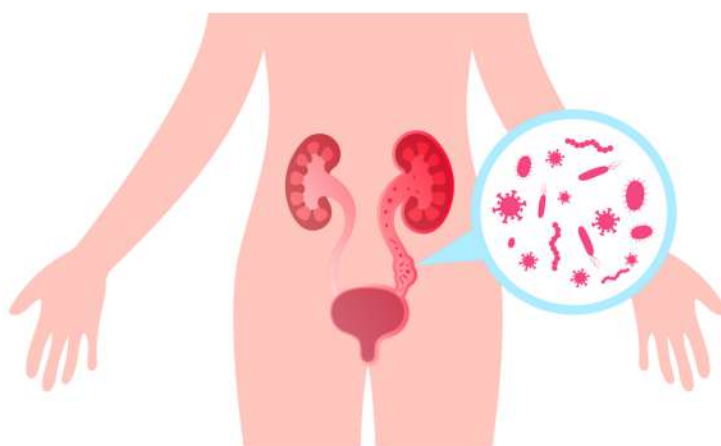
What Are The Options?

For ureteric stones, shock wave therapy, or medical expulsion therapy to allow the stone to pass out naturally may be appropriate. Occasionally, key-hole surgery to remove large stones may also be an alternative.

For stones in the kidney, alternatives also include percutaneous nephrolithotripsy. Your clinician will discuss these options with you depending on the location and size of your urinary tract stones.

What Will Happen If I Do Not Undergo The Surgery?

Diagnosis of ureteric lesion may be missed, and delayed treatment resulting in poorer outcomes. If there is an untreated stone, unrelieved obstruction might result in kidney damage and infection.



Contributed by Urology

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