
Ureteric stents

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are stents inserted?

Ureteric stents are inserted for many reasons but the commonest indications are blockage of the ureter (the tube draining urine from the kidney to the bladder) or as a prelude to lithotripsy (shockwave treatment) for a large kidney stone.

How are stents inserted?

Insertion of a ureteric stent is usually performed under a general anaesthetic. In most cases, in order to insert a stent, the surgeon will need to pass an instrument via the urethra (the water pipe leading to the bladder) and use X-ray control to ensure that the stent is correctly positioned. The procedure takes approximately 15 minutes to perform and specific consent information is available for this on request.

What should I expect afterwards?

You may find that, when you first pass urine, it stings or burns and is slightly bloodstained. You may also experience a desire to pass urine frequently and some discomfort in the lower part of your abdomen.

Men can experience pain at the tip of the penis and some women develop symptoms similar to those of cystitis. These acute symptoms will, in most cases, settle within 24–48 hours. Some patients with ureteric stents develop pain in the kidney when they pass urine; this is quite common and is not a cause for concern.

What should I do afterwards?

For the first few days after insertion of a ureteric stent, it is important to drink plenty of fluids, 2–3 litres (4–5 pints) each day, in order to flush your system through. Your stay in hospital should be no more than one night. Before you go home, you may have an X-ray to ensure that your stent is in the correct position.

How long does a stent need to remain in place?

It is usual for a stent to be left in place approximately 6 weeks although it may remain in place longer with, for example, a prolonged course of lithotripsy. Ureteric stents are normally removed in the Clinic or in the Day Surgery Unit. You will, of course, be informed of this by letter when you get home.

How is the stent removed?

Stent removal is usually performed under local anaesthetic. A special jelly is used to numb and lubricate the urethra to ensure that the passage of the telescope is as comfortable as possible. The end of the stent is then grasped and the stent removed. If you require a general anaesthetic for stent removal, you will be admitted to the Day Surgery Unit.

Please note that most stents are removed after 6 weeks or so; if you have not heard from us within that period of time, please let us know to be sure that we have booked you in to have the stent removed. If you need additional information about the procedure of stent insertion/removal, we can provide specific information about consent to these procedures.

Please ask on the ward or in the outpatient clinic for the appropriate information. This information will become part of the formal process of obtaining written, informed consent for the procedure. What should I do if no-one contacts me about removal of the stent? We do run a "stent register" to ensure that we do not forget to remove your stent. However, if you have not received any contact within 6 weeks of your discharge from hospital, please contact us by telephone on the numbers given below.

Ureteric stents continued...

Who can I contact for more help or information?

Dr Peter Campbell

Suite 9, level 9, Evan Thomson Building, The Wesley Hospital,
Chasely St,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3367 1608,
www.campbellurology.com.au

The Wesley Hospital, Urology Ward

451 Coronation Drive,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3232 7168
www.uhc.com.au/wesley

The Wesley Emergency Centre

451 coronation Drive,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3232 7333

Greenslopes Private Hospital, Continence Advisor

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 7978
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

Greenslopes Private Hospital Urology Ward

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 7261
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

Greenslopes Private Hospital Emergency Centre

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 6777
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

**The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital,
Urodynamics Department**

Kessels Rd,
Coopers plains, QLD 4108
(07) 3275 6346

American Urological Association Foundation

1000 Corporate Blvd, Suite 410,
Linthicum, MD 21090
1800 828 7866
www.UrologyHealth.org

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information sheet. If you are satisfied with the explanation of the test, please sign below and this leaflet will be filed in your chart.

If you wish to retain a copy for you own records, one will be provided.

I have read this information sheet and I accept the information it provides.

Signature

Date
