Removal of Ureteric Stent under Local Anaesthetic

What is a stent and why is it being removed?
A stent is a surgical device which was put into your ureter to keep it open to enable urine to drain from your kidney into your bladder.

It is being removed because the blockage has gone or has been removed, it does not need to be there anymore, or further treatment has been advised.

What are the benefits of having a stent removed?
- To reduce the risk of infection.
- To reduce the risk of pain and discomfort.

What are the risks, consequences and alternatives associated with having a stent removed?
As with any surgical procedure there is a small chance of side-effects or complications such as:
- Risk of infection which can be treated with antibiotics.
- Risk of bleeding when the stent is removed but this should settle in a few days.
- Minimal risk of damage to ureteric wall (where the stent is) requiring further surgery.

If you are concerned about any of these risks, or have any further queries, please speak to your consultant or one of the team.

Your consultant has recommended this procedure as being the best option.

However, the alternative to this procedure is having the stent removed under general anaesthetic. If you would like more information about this, please speak to your consultant or one of the nurses caring for you.

There is also the option of not receiving any treatment at all. The consequences of not receiving any treatment are that if the stent remains in the ureter it can become encrusted by stone debris, cause infection, obstruction and a loss of kidney function. If you would like more information please speak to your consultant or one of the nurses caring for you.

Getting ready for the operation
No special preparation is required on the day of the operation. You may eat and drink as normal.

You will be required to empty your bladder before the operation.
What happens during the stent removal?
You do not require a general anaesthetic (where you are asleep). A local anaesthetic jelly is gently inserted into your urethra (water pipe) using a syringe. This will numb and lubricate the area enabling the smooth passage of the telescope (long thin flexible tube).

The tip of the telescope (cystoscope) is then gently inserted into your urethra and through into the bladder.

The doctor may ask male patients to try and pass urine or to cough when the flexible telescope reaches a certain point below the prostate gland. This enables the telescope to pass into the bladder more easily.

The stent is then removed by passing flexible forceps down the telescope. The flexible telescope, forceps and stent are then removed together.

DISCHARGE INFORMATION AND AT HOME ADVICE

Pain
You may experience mild burning when you first pass urine after the operation. Usually this improves within a day or so and may be helped by drinking lots of fluid.

A mild painkiller such as paracetamol may be taken - do not exceed the stated dose and ensure that you follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Urine
If you have a temperature, pain, persistent burning or bleeding when passing urine which does not improve, you may have a urine infection and require further advice or treatment.

Contact the Urology Assessment Unit if you have any problems passing urine within 24 hours of going home. After this time contact your GP.

Getting back to normal
You may return to your normal activities when you feel able.

Drink plenty of fluids and ensure your fluid intake is between 1½ - 2 litres or 2½ - 3½ pints per day both before and after treatment (this is approximately 8 - 10 cups).

Further appointments
If a further appointment is required the details will be posted to you. If you have any more problems, please contact your GP.

Reference

If you have any queries, or require further information please telephone the Royal Derby Hospital on 01332 340131 and ask for your ward/clinic or the Urology Assessment Unit on 01332 785899

NHS Direct is a 24 hour nurse led, confidential service providing general health care advice and information.
Telephone 0845 4647 or visit the website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

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