
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.

Some patients will notice a small string coming out of the water-pipe (urethra) after the operation. It is important this is not pulled by you as it will remove the stent. The string allows the stent to be easily removed in the clinic, usually a few days after your procedure.

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.

Who can I contact for more help or information?

Oncology Nurses

- Uro-Oncology Nurse Specialist
01223 586748
- Bladder cancer Nurse Practitioner (haematuria, chemotherapy & BCG)
01223 274608
- Prostate cancer Nurse Practitioner
01223 274608

Non-Oncology Nurses

- Urology Nurse Practitioner (incontinence, urodynamics, catheter patients)
01223 274608 or 586748

Patient Advice & Liaison Centre (PALS)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 216756 or 257257
+44 (0)1223 274432 or 274431
- PatientLine
*801 (*from patient bedside telephones only*)
- E mail
pals@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
PALS, Box No 53
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

Chaplaincy and Multi-Faith Community

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 217769
- E mail
derek.fraser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
The Chaplaincy, Box No 105
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

MINICOM System ("type" system for the hard of hearing)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 274604

Access Office (travel, parking & security information)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 586969

Other information

This patient information leaflet provides input from specialists, the British Association of Urological Surgeons, the Department of Health and evidence-based sources as a supplement to any advice you may already have been given by your GP. Alternative treatments can be discussed in more detail with your urologist or Specialist Nurse.

How can I get information in alternative formats?

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

-
- Portuguese** Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para:
patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Russian** Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт
patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Cantonese** 若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到：patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Turkish** Bu bilgiyi diger dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya asagidaki adrese e-posta gönderin:
patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Bengali** এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke anywhere on the site. Smoking increases the severity of some urological diseases and increases the risk of post-operative complications. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free on 0800 169 0 169

Document history

Author(s)	Nikesh Thiruchelvam (on behalf of the Consultant Urologists)
Department	Department of Urology, Box No 43 Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Hills Road Cambridge, CB2 2QQ www.addenbrookes.org.uk
Contact number	01223 216575
Fax number	01223 216069
Dept website	www.camurology.org.uk
First published	May 2005
Review date	April 2014
File name	Ureteric stents
Version number	6.0
Ref	23/Info_04_11