



For Appointments Call: 08 8267 1424

Insertion of a Metallic Ureteric Stent

Why are you having this operation?

A stent is a tube that is passed to the inside of the kidney from the bladder. It holds open the ureter, allowing urine to pass. Most of the stents used by urologists are made of soft silicone, and are [temporary](#).

Occasionally, it may be necessary to insert a metal stent, if a silicone one is not sufficient to hold the ureter open.

There are a number of reasons for inserting metallic stents, and most of these relate to preventing or treating a block to urine flow. Some examples are:

- A growth inside or outside the ureter, which is obstructing the passage of urine.
- Long-term scars in the ureter.

What does the operation involve?

Under general anaesthetic, a telescope is passed into the bladder, to allow a soft 'wire' to be passed up the ureter to the kidney. This acts as a guide, over which the stent is passed. X-ray dye needs to be injected into the ureter via the telescope, and X-rays taken to outline the ureter, before the stent can be passed.



Watch the Video

Metal Stent Insertion

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After the operation

You will normally be able to go home the same day. Make sure someone can take you home, and stay with you for 24 hours. Rarely, an overnight stay is required.

Do rest at home until you feel able to get back to functioning normally.

Simple painkillers should be taken for any discomfort. It is common to see a small amount of blood in the urine, and to have some discomfort in the bladder for a short time. Stents can irritate the bladder, give some discomfort and make you feel that you need to void frequently.

If you develop a high temperature, severe pain on passing urine, inability to pass urine or worsening bleeding, please contact the practice immediately, or go to your nearest emergency department.

Potential side effects and complications

All procedures have the potential for side effects. Although these complications are well recognised, the majority of patients do not have problems after a procedure.

Risks of the anaesthetic need be discussed with the anaesthetist who will be looking after you during the operation, and who will visit you beforehand.

There are specific risks with this surgical procedure, and these will be discussed with you before your procedure. As a guide to complement that one-on-one discussion with your surgeon, these include:

Common

- Mild burning or bleeding on passing urine for short period after operation
- Temporary insertion of a bladder catheter
- The stent may cause pain, frequency and bleeding in the urine

Occasional

- Inability to pass the stent
- Infection in the urine, requiring antibiotics

Rare

- Infection in the kidney (pyelonephritis) which can be serious and require intravenous antibiotics
- Damage to the ureter with need for open operation to repair it.
- If the ureter is damaged, occasionally [a tube needs to be placed into kidney directly from the back](#) to allow the leak to heal
- Scar or stricture of the ureter requiring further procedures
- Stents can occasionally become dislodged and require replacement
- Metallic stents may erode into the delicate lining if the kidney or bladder. This is rare, but has been reported.

This information is intended as an educational guide only, and is here to help you as an additional source of information, along with a consultation from your urologist. The information does not apply to all patients.

Not all potential complications are listed, and you must talk to your urologist about the complications specific to your situation.

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