USDRN STENTS | Research Article Summary

Unplanned Healthcare Utilization after Ureteroscopy with Ureteral Stenting: Results from the Study to Enhance Understanding of Stent-Associated Symptoms Cohort



What was this study about?

This study looked at how often people need unexpected medical care after they have surgery to remove kidney stones and place a small tube (called a stent), and what factors make this more likely.

Why did we do this study?

Many people who receive a kidney stone treatment called ureteroscopy receive a stent as part of the surgical procedure. These stents can cause pain and other symptoms. Some patients go to the emergency room or see a doctor unexpectedly after the surgery. We wanted to understand the reasons why some people need to seek unplanned medical care and which patients are most at risk. This will help surgeons and other providers better support patient care around the time of this surgery.

What did we learn?



- About 1 in 10 patients (10%) needed an unexpected medical visit after surgery. About half of those visits were to the emergency room or hospital, while the other half were to the patients' medical provider.



- Chronic pain conditions such as joint pain, back pain, and migraines were common (39% of patients in the study). Patients with chronic pain were about 3 times more likely to need unexpected care.



- Other factors like age, sex, race, or past kidney stones did not affect the risk for unexpected medical visits after surgery. Details about the stone and surgery itself — such as stone size and location, and the length of the surgery — were also not linked to higher risk.

How did we do the study?

- We followed 484 patients who had kidney stone surgery with a stent placed.
- Patients were treated at multiple hospitals across the U.S.
- We collected information about their health, surgery, and recovery.
- We tracked whether patients had any unplanned medical visits within 30 days after surgery.
- We compared patients who needed extra care with those who did not.

What does this mean for patients and care teams?

- Some patients are more likely to need extra care and support after surgery, especially those with chronic pain conditions.
- Care teams may be able to help by identifying higher risk patients before surgery. Providing better education about what symptoms to expect may also help.
- Reducing the need for unexpected visits could lower stress for patients and reduce strain on the healthcare system.

Learn more about this study from the full research article:
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40518971/

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STudy to Enhance uNderstanding of sTent-associated Symptoms