

# Pre-Op Guide: Ureteroscopy + Temporary Stent

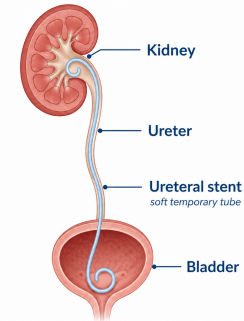
Stone treatment with a planned healing stent

## What procedure is planned?

Ureteroscopy uses a small camera passed through the urinary tract to reach the stone. A laser breaks the stone, and pieces may be removed or suctioned out when appropriate.

**For many proximal ureter and kidney stones, we use suction/vacuum-assisted stone removal when it is helpful and safe.**

## What is a ureteral stent?



A soft temporary tube from kidney to bladder.

## What may happen during surgery?

- Look inside the ureter or kidney with a small camera.
- Break the stone with a laser.
- Remove fragments with a basket or suction when appropriate.
- Place a temporary ureteral stent to help the ureter heal.

## Why a stent is usually placed

**After ureteroscopy, the ureter can swell or spasm. Small fragments can also move after surgery. A stent keeps urine draining while this settles down.**

- Helps prevent temporary blockage
- Reduces kidney swelling risk
- Helps stone dust/fragments pass
- May reduce return visits for pain or obstruction

## Why not stentless?

Some cases can be done without a stent. However, in our local patient population, stentless procedures have been associated with more post-op problems and ER returns. For many routine cases, a short-term stent is part of the safety plan.

## What the stent may feel like

- Burning with urination
- Urgency or needing to urinate often
- Bladder pressure or spasms
- Blood in the urine that comes and goes
- Flank/kidney pain during or right after urinating

**Stents are temporary, helpful, and often annoying. Symptoms usually improve after removal.**

## Stent on a string

- Most routine stents are left on a string.
- The string is taped to the skin and is only for removal.
- The string is not a catheter and does not drain urine.
- Do not pull it until your instructed removal date.
- Call the office if you prefer clinic removal.

## Common post-op medicines

- Flomax/tamsulosin: relaxes ureter and helps stent symptoms or fragments pass.
- Ketorolac/Toradol: main pain medicine if safe for kidney function and bleeding risk.
- Tylenol #3: rescue only for severe breakthrough pain.
- Pyridium or oxybutynin: sometimes used for burning or bladder spasms.

**Office: 832.556.6046**

For non-urgent questions, call during business hours or send a MyChart message. Your surgeon will tell you when the stent should be removed.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Stent removal date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-operative kidney stone counseling guide. Follow your surgeon and hospital instructions.