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Ureteric Stents (Double J Stent)

What are ureteric stents?

The ureters are the two tubes that drain urine from the kidneys into the bladder. A blockage in one of the ureters can obstruct the flow of urine and may be temporarily relieved by placing a hollow tube called a stent, such as the double J stent, in the ureter.

What is the purpose of a ureteric stent?

The stent keeps the ureter patent allowing urine to flow into the bladder. It is also used after stone treatment to help the fragmented stones to pass out in the urine.

What is the double J stent?

The double-J stent is a thin tube with both ends curved in a J pattern. This serves to hold the stent in place. Your doctor directs the stent through the ureter into the kidney where the upper end of the stent is curved. The lower end is present in the bladder. A string may be attached to the lower end of the stent to allow your doctor to easily remove it without the need for another surgical procedure.

How long is the stent left in?

Depending on how well you respond to treatment your doctor will decide when the stent should be removed. Ureteric stents are usually not placed for more than 6 months. Prolonged use of the stent can lead to stone formation, infection and kidney damage.

What is the experience of having a ureteric stent?

Ureteric stents are mostly well tolerated but may irritate the kidney and bladder leading to discomfort, a frequent need to urinate and occasional bleeding. Discomfort can easily be managed by over-the-counter pain medications and all symptoms resolve once the stent is removed. Call your doctor if you have any concerns or if the stent becomes dislodged for any reason.

