Ureteral Stent Change

The ureters are thin tube-like organs that connect each kidney to the bladder. A stent is a small, soft hollow tube placed in the ureter to allow urine to flow from the kidney. The stent is placed by inserting a small scope through the urine channel (urethra), into the bladder, and up through the ureter.

Why place a stent?

- To relieve a kidney or ureter blockage caused by a stone, stricture, tumor or swelling.
- To allow healing after kidney stone surgery
- To improve the passage of kidney stone fragments.
- To help dilate the ureter and make it more patent.

How long will I need the stent?

It depends on the original cause of the disease process. It may range from a few days to the duration of the patient's life. It is usually recommended to exchange the stents every 3 to 6 months.

Are there any side effects?

The following symptoms are normal, and they will decrease with time:

- You may have blood in your urine. If so, drink more fluids.
- You may feel like you have to pass urine more often.
- You may have a burning feeling when you pass urine.

Do I need follow-up care?

You will be scheduled for a follow-up visit. It is very important that you do not miss or delay your follow-up visit.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor if you notice any of these signs:

- Unable to pass urine.
- Large blood clots in your urine.
- Severe pain not controlled with pain medicine.
- Cloudy or foul smelling urine.
- Red or bloody urine after 3 days.
- Fever over 100° F by mouth.

Disclaimer: *This material provides general information only. It should not be used in place of the advice, instructions, or treatment given by your doctor or other health care professional.*
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