



TEXAS UROLOGY

STENTS

A stent is a hollow, plastic tube approximately 24" long and has the diameter of a plastic coffee stirrer. A stent is coiled or looped upon itself at both ends in order to retain its position within the body. In addition to the center part being hollow, there are multiple holes along the sides to ensure drainage of urine. Prior to insertion, a suture is frequently tied to one end of the stent and is the only thing that exits out of the body. Simply pulling on the suture will then remove the stent.

The purpose of a stent is to drain urine from the kidney into the bladder. The normal anatomy of the body is such that each of two kidneys has a tube called the ureter that drains urine into the bladder. A stent is placed between the kidney and bladder and lies inside the ureter. A stent is used:

1. When a blockage exists that inhibits proper and adequate drainage of urine from the kidney to the bladder.
2. Following kidney stone removal, swelling may occur, resulting in pain and/or infection.
3. Following shockwave treatment to fragment a stone into fine gravel, all or a significant amount of the particles may try to exit at the same time and plug up the ureter.

Hence, a stent is used to ensure proper drainage of urine from the kidney to the bladder.

Unfortunately, the use of the stent is a two-way street, and a number of side effects are possible. The coiled end that lies in the kidney can produce pain and discomfort in the side or back. The end that is in the bladder can produce the sensation of having to urinate quite frequently, urinate in small amounts, and also result in the passage of blood. There can be pain with urination either as the urine goes out of the body or back up into the kidney. These symptoms can be relieved by hot showers, baths, pain pills, or pills to relieve bladder irritability.

The stent is removed in the office by simply pulling on the suture. There is some discomfort associated with it, but the removal takes less than 10 seconds. Very frequently an injection of antibiotics is given at that time. After removal of the stent, there can be some continued passage of blood, urgency, or frequency. These are all common symptoms and should disappear over a day or two. It is important that large amounts of fluid are taken both while the stent is in place and for the first few days after removal. If fever (temperature greater than 100) or severe pain (unrelieved by pain pills) should occur, notify the office immediately.

Our after office hours answering service phone number is 214-373-2010.

Specializing in Prostate Problems • Vasectomy • Impotence • Kidney Stones • Bladder Problems • Pediatric Urology

LEWISVILLE
541 W. Main
Suite 150
Lewisville, TX 75057
TEL. 972-420-3500
FAX 972-221-6302

CARROLLTON
Trinity Medical Center
4333 N. Josey Lane, Bldg. II, Suite 104
Carrollton, TX 75010
TEL. 972-394-4500
FAX 972-394-8180

FLOWER MOUND
3101 Churchill
Suite 320
Flower Mound, TX 75022
TEL. 214-513-1227
FAX 214-513-2059