

EURACARE

PATIENT INFORMATION FORM

DJ STENTING

What is a DJ Stenting?

A double J ureteric stent is a thin, hollow plastic tube that is inserted through the kidney into the ureter to allow urine flow from the kidney to the bladder. The stent is longer than the actual ureter and tube-ends are usually coiled.

Why do you need a DJ Stenting?

Other tests you have had will have shown that the tube leading from your kidney to the bladder has become blocked. It may not be obvious what the cause of the blockage is but if left untreated your kidney will become damaged. Insertion of the stent will allow the kidney to drain in a normal way.

Are there any risks?

DJ stenting is a very safe procedure, but as with any medical treatment there are a few risks and complications. It may not be possible to place the stent satisfactorily in the ureter. There may be slight bleeding from the kidney. Sometimes there is a leak of urine from the kidney resulting in a small collection of fluid inside the abdomen. If this becomes a large collection it may require draining. The stent can cause irritation in the bladder and this can be uncomfortable. This sensation usually settles after a few days but if you find it intolerable, the stent can be removed, and alternative treatments considered. Despite the slight risk the procedure is normally very safe and will almost certainly result in a great improvement in your medical condition.

Who has made the decision?

The consultant in charge of your care and the interventional radiologist performing the procedure have discussed your case and feel that this is the best option. However, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be considered and if, after discussion with your doctors, you no longer want the procedure, you can decide against it.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

You will probably have had some blood tests performed beforehand to check that you do not have an increased risk of bleeding. You may be asked not to eat for 4 hours before the procedure, although you may still drink clear fluids such as water.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the radiology department – in the ultrasound room.

Who will be performing this procedure?

A specially trained doctor called a Radiologist. Radiologists have special expertise in using x-ray and scanning equipment and in interpreting the images produced. They need to look at these images while carrying out the procedure to make sure the stent is placed correctly.

What happens during the procedure?

You will lie on the x-ray table and be given a sedative and painkillers, as necessary. Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic and then most of your body covered with a theatre towel. Your skin near the point of insertion will be numbed using local anaesthetic, and the needle inserted into the kidney. This is done using x-ray equipment or ultrasound to check and then position the plastic stent correctly. Urine should then be able to pass down the stent and into the bladder.

Will it hurt?

When the local anaesthetic is injected it will sting to start with, but this soon wears off, leaving the skin and deeper tissues numb. There may be a little discomfort when the stent is being passed into the bladder, usually this produces a sensation of wanting to pass water.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how complex or straight forward the procedure will be. Expect to be in the Department for about an hour altogether.

What happens afterwards?

You will be taken back to the ward. Routine observations, such as taking your pulse and blood pressure will be carried out to make sure there are no problems. You will stay in bed for a few hours, until you have recovered nurses will want to measure the amount each time.

How long will the ureteric stent stay in and what happens next?

These are questions that only the doctors looking after you can answer. The stent may stay in position for a much longer period of time, depending on the nature of the blockage and whether any operation is being considered.