

Urgent Ureteroscopies in Acute Ureteric Colic Requiring Intervention

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Background: Urolithiasis, in general, constitutes a significant volume of the daily clinical activities in our institution.

Objective: To evaluate the outcome of ureteroscopies performed in patients admitted acutely with symptomatic ureteric calculi compared with elective ureteroscopies.

Design: A Retrospective Review.

Setting: Department of Urology, King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain.

Method: All ureteroscopy (URS) procedures performed for symptomatic ureteric calculi between 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013 were reviewed. These procedures were divided into two groups: urgent URS and elective URS group. Both groups were comparable in personal and stone characteristics.

Result: One hundred ninety-five procedures were performed on 167 patients. One hundred twenty-seven (65.1%) procedures were urgent and 68 (34.9%) were elective. The cohort included 131 males and 36 females with a mean age of 41.5 years, a range of 19 to 74. One hundred forty-nine (76.4%) procedures were performed on male patients, while 46 (23.5%) were performed on female patients. The mean stone size for patients undergoing urgent URS was 7.7 mm and 8.3 mm for elective procedures; approximately one-third of patients had more than one stone.

Eighty-one stones in the urgent group were distally located; fifty-seven were in the elective group. The most common indication for urgent URS was pain refractory to injectable analgesia. LASER was used in 182 (93.3%) procedures, 179 (91.7%) procedures were urgent.

Seventeen (8.7%) complications were documented for urgent URS and 8 (4.1%) for elective cases, no statistical significance, P value = 0.74.

Conclusion: Urgent URS procedure is a safe and cost effective option compared with Elective URS. It should be the preferred option when resources and expertise are available.