

- You had surgery to remove or fragment your kidney stones, also known as an ureteroscopy.
- After surgery, you may have some degree of pain or discomfort.
- In most patients, these symptoms can be managed with medications.

Common symptoms after kidney stone surgery



Pain in the bladder, lower abdomen, and/or lower back



Urinary frequency, and/or urgency



Burning with urination



Blood in the urine



Sensation of incomplete emptying of the bladder

The following recommended medications may be provided by your doctor to reduce symptoms following your kidney stone surgery

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

- Best at managing flank and abdominal pain related to kidney stones by reducing inflammation

Examples: Toradol, Ibuprofen (Motrin), Naproxen (Aleve), Diclofenac

Alpha Blockers

- Helps with flank pain, abdominal pain, and urinary symptoms after surgery by relaxing bladder and ureter muscles
- Helps relieve stent discomfort
- May assist kidney stone fragment passage

Examples: Tamsulosin (Flomax)

Acetaminophen*

- Manages flank and abdominal pain after surgery by blocking pain signals
- Very effective when combined with NSAIDs

**Do not take more than 3000 mg of acetaminophen in a 24 hour period*

Anticholinergics

- Prevents bladder spasms and bladder pain by preventing involuntary muscle movements
- Helps relieve stent discomfort

Examples: Oxybutynin (Ditropan) and Tolterodine (Detrol)

You may also be prescribed the following optional medications to help reduce your symptoms

Opioids⁺⁺, ⁺⁺⁺

- Manages flank and abdominal pain after surgery by blocking some pain receptors
- Can cause nausea, vomiting, constipation

Examples: Norco, Vicodin, Oxycodone

++ Shorter duration (less than 3 days) is recommended to prevent dependence

+++ Most patients are able to manage symptoms without these drugs

Pyridium

- Helps with painful urination by interacting with the bladder surface to provide pain relief
- May turn urine orange

When to call your doctor



Chills, fever higher than 101.5°F



Difficulty or inability to urinate



Nausea, vomiting and unable to drink or keep down liquids



Constantly leaking urine



Severe pain that is not relieved by pain medication



The stent falls out




This document was designed for adult patient education.

The information herein was originally developed by the Michigan Urological Surgical Improvement Collaborative (MUSIC), 2019.

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