Glossary for Kidney and Ureteral Stones

Active treatment	Procedures to remove a kidney or ureteral stone.
Anaesthesia (general or local)	Before a procedure you will get medication to make sure that you don't feel pain. Under general anaesthesia you are unconscious and unaware of what is happening to you. Under local anaesthesia you will not feel pain in the part of your body where the procedure is done. Anaesthesia wears off gradually after the procedure.
Asymptomatic stones	Stones that do not cause any symptoms. They are usually found during imaging tests done for another condition.
Bladder	Organ that collects urine from the kidneys (*see also* Kidneys).
Calculi	Stones.
Computed tomography (CT)	Imaging technique that makes a series of x-ray images of the body.
Conservative treatment	Monitoring the progress of the stone disease or treatment with medication to ease the natural passing of stones.
Contraindication	A symptom or condition that makes a certain treatment option undesirable.
Decompression	Relieving pressure in the kidneys. A nephrostomy tube is placed directly in the kidney through the skin so that urine can leave the body (*see also* Nephrostomy tube).
Endoscope	A tube-like instrument to examine the inside of the body. Can be flexible or rigid.
Fragments	Pieces of the stone broken during a procedure.
Intravenous urography	An imaging technique where x-ray contrast agent is injected into the vein, usually in the arm.
JJ-stent	A tube that is temporarily placed in the ureter to make sure urine can flow from the kidney to the bladder.
Kidneys	Two bean-shaped organs in the back of the abdomen that filter the blood and produce urine.

Medical Expulsive Therapy (MET)	Medication that makes the natural passing of stones easier and less painful.
Metabolic evaluation	Series of blood and urine tests for patients who have a high risk of forming stones.
Nephrostomy tube	A tube placed directly into the kidney through the skin. This allows the urine to leave the body (*see also* Decompression).
Non-contrast-enhanced CT	Type of CT-scan with low radiation exposure (*see also* Computed tomography).
NSAIDs	A group of medicines used to relieve pain. It is often used to relieve renal colic.
Oxalate	A component found in many kinds of food which may be related to forming kidney or ureteral stones.
Percutaneous	Through the skin.
Percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PNL)	Treatment option to remove stones directly from the kidney by placing a tube through the skin.
pH-value	A measure between 0.0 and 14.0 to describe if a fluid is acidic or alkaline. pH-values close to 7.0 are neutral, anything above is alkaline, anything below is acidic.
Renal colic	Severe pain in flank, loin, groin, or thigh caused by a stone blocking the normal flow of urine.
Shock-wave lithotripsy (SWL)	Treatment option to break stones into smaller pieces using high energy sound waves. Stone fragments pass with urine after the procedure.
Ultrasonography	Imaging technique that uses high-frequency sounds to make an image of the inside of the body.
Ultrasound	*see* Ultrasonography.
Ureter	One of the two tubes through which urine flows from the kidneys to the bladder.
Ureteroscope (rigid or flexible)	An endoscope used for the urinary tract. It is inserted into the urethra and can move through the bladder, up the ureter, and even into the kidney.
Ureteroscopy (URS)	Treatment option to remove kidney or ureteral stones. A ureteroscope is inserted into the urinary tract via the urethra to pull out the stone (*see also* Ureteroscope).

Urethra	Tube that caries urine from the bladder and out of the body.
Uric acid	A chemical that is created when the body breaks down substances called purines.
Urinary system	*see* Urinary tract.
Urinary tract	The organ system that produces and transports urine through and out of the body. It includes two kidneys, two ureters, the bladder and the urethra. The urinary tract is similar in men and women, only men have a longer urethra.
Urolithiasis	Stone disease.
Urologist	A doctor specialized in health and diseases of the urinary tract and the genitals.

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This leaflet contains general information about kidney and ureteral stones. If you have any specific questions about your individual medical situation you should consult your doctor or other professional healthcare provider.

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The content of this leaflet is in line with the EAU Guidelines.

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