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Stone diseases in Algeria: URS replaces slowly open surgery

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Objective: In Algeria, urolithiasis is a wide-spread health problem. Until recently, stone disease was almost exclusively treated by open stone surgery due to financial restrictions leading to a lack of minimally invasive technological infrastructure. Only recently, ureterorenoscopy, LASER stone fragmentation, but also novel medical concepts such as Medical Expulsive Therapy MET are introduced.
Materials-Methods: A case series of 6 large ureter stones 1-2 cm are treated with modern approach and would have otherwise undergone open surgery.
Case One: Female aged 36 presenting with a 14 mm stone in the left pelvic ureter.
Case Two: Male aged 54 presenting with anuria through a 14 mm stone in the right lumbar ureter.
Case Three: Female aged 35 presenting with a 15 mm stone in the left pelvic ureter.
Case Four: Male aged 47 presenting with a 10 mm stone in the right pelvic ureter. MET failed.
Case Five: Male aged 44 presenting with a 22 mm stone in the left lumbar ureter.
Case Six: Female aged 56 presenting with a 20mm stone in the right kidney scheduled for fURS.
Results:
Case One: URS scheduled. Spontaneous stone passage through MET after 3 weeks.
Cases Two: Semi-rigid ureteroscopy. Fragmentation with ballistic lithotripter. Post-OP JJ.
Case Three: Semi-rigid ureteroscopy. Fragmentation with ballistic lithotripter. Post-OP JJ.
Cases Four and Five: Semi-rigid ureteroscopy. Fragmentation with ballistic lithotripter. Post-OP JJ.
Case Six: The stone was found embedded in the ureteropelvic junction and to 50% fragmented. Cloudy urine observed. JJ placed. Treatment completed using delayed SWL.
Conclusion: Open surgery has been the main if not only treatment for stones in Algeria. Ureteroscopy has opened a path towards minimally invasive surgery in our country. It also has re-instated confidence in the use of conservative treatment as a first option. Algeria has embarked towards a path to minimally modern stone treatment.