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Ultra-mini PCNL – Lessons learned from the initial experience

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Introduction: Further miniaturization of instruments promises reduction of trauma and complications in PCNL. “Ultra-mini PCNL” (UMP) has recently been introduced as one of several new percutaneous techniques for treating medium size renal stones. A year after implementing UMP at our institution the procedure has been established as an alternative to standard PCNL and flexible ureteroscopy.

Materials and Methods: All cases performed between 04/2013 and 04/2014 (n=21) have been recorded in a data registry. Basic steps were adopted from standard PCNL. However, UMP is characterized by some distinctive features such as the use of a separate small irrigation channel to flush out fragments (“whirlpool effect”). Critical steps of the procedure have been subject to a number of minor modifications.

Results: The video will illustrate all essential steps of the procedure. In addition, we will show some tips and tricks learned during the first year of its application. Our initial data will be displayed.

Conclusions: Ultra-mini PCNL is a promising new technique. Urological surgeons with experience in percutaneous surgery will be able to adopt this technique easily. As for all surgical procedures, lessons learned from the initial experience may help to pave the way for those to follow.