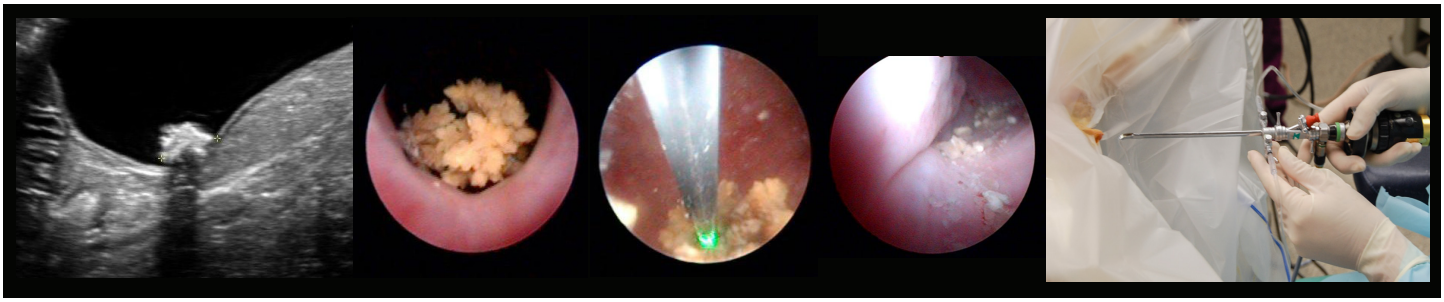
Cystoscopic laser lithotripsy

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Veterinary Medical
Teaching Hospital



Procedure: This minimally invasive procedure is performed under anesthesia. Using a rigid cystoscope (females) or flexible scope (males), a laser fiber is used to fragment stones within the urethra and urinary bladder. Ultrasonography is used to verify removal of debris. Collected stone fragments are submitted for analysis.

Indications: Uroliths (stones) within the urethra and/or the bladder; patients with up to 4 stones are appropriate candidates. If >4 stones are present, a minimally invasive procedure called percutaneous cystolithotomy is more appropriate.

Patient eligibility (species, size, gender): Female dogs must be able to accommodate a rigid cystoscope (generally >5 kg/11 lbs); Male dogs must be large enough to accommodate a flexible scope (generally >8 kg/18 lbs).

Cost: $2500-3000, depending on duration of procedure. Pre-operative evaluation may be necessary (labwork, urine culture, etc.) and will incur additional costs.

Length of stay: 24 hours post-procedure to monitor urination

Complications: The biggest complication is the risk of bladder perforation (uncommon, and manageable). Urethral discomfort may occur post-procedure. Other complications include infection and failure to remove all the stones.

Anticipated outcome: This is an excellent alternative to traditional surgical approaches, and is particularly useful if stones are lodged in the urethra. Stone recurrence is likely without appropriate long-term management.

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