

Percutaneous ureteral stenting



Procedure: This minimally invasive procedure is performed under anesthesia. A needle is placed in the affected kidney using ultrasound guidance, and a guidewire is directed down the ureter, into the bladder and out of the vulva or penis. A second wire is then used to place the stent; one of the 'pigtailed' holds the top of the stent in the kidney and the other secures the end in the bladder. Urine can then flow through and around the stent.

Indication: Ureteral obstruction due to cancer (usually urothelial carcinoma [UC]; aka transitional cell carcinoma [TCC]) affecting the neck of the bladder.

Patient eligibility (species, size, gender): Dogs of any gender or size; the renal pelvis must be dilated enough (> 7 mm) to allow access.

Cost: \$5,500-7,000 for stent and placement. Pre-operative labwork, imaging, and supportive care will incur additional costs.

Length of stay: 1-2 days; longer if medically necessary.

Complications: Risks include ureteral perforation and urine leakage. Additional complications include infection and stent migration.

Anticipated outcome: These stents are generally well tolerated and effectively relieve the obstruction, with improvement or stabilization of renal function. Long term prognosis is determined by the underlying tumor.

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