

Reviewer #1: Dr Joshua Tierney

Question: Was there a higher technical success rate in patients who POP was used as a second-line therapy? Presumably performing ESWL prior to POP could have benefit in partially fracturing large stones. On the other hand, this may be one point of selection bias if patients referred for ESWL prior to POP may have been felt to have more difficult anatomy or stone disease. I think given your large dataset, parsing out the outcomes between first-line POP and second-line POP would be very interesting. I would suggest adding this to your manuscript.

Thank you for your astute comment. In the studies included, there is no data for pop as a first line therapy versus pop as a second line therapy. Less than 5% of patients underwent POP as a first line procedure and the individual outcomes for POP as a first line were not mentioned in these studies. Hopefully with the increasing popularity of POP more studies will be conducted utilizing POP as a first line procedure. We did include a comment in our limitations and conclusion for future studies to compare POP as a first line versus second line.