

Name of journal: World Journal of Nephrology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13099

Columns: MINIREVIEWS

Strategies to optimize shock wave lithotripsy outcome: patient selection and treatment parameters

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Abstract

Shock wave lithotripsy (SWL) was introduced in 1980, modernizing the treatment of upper urinary tract stones, and quickly became the most commonly utilized technique to treat kidney stones. Over the past 5-10 years, however, use of SWL has been declining because it is not as reliably effective as more modern technology. SWL success rates vary considerably and there is abundant literature predicting outcome based on patient- and stone-specific parameters. Herein we discuss the ways to optimize SWL outcomes by reviewing proper patient selection utilizing stone characteristics and patient features. Stone size, number,

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