

CURRENT CLINICAL UROLOGY

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CLEVELAND CLINIC LERNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE HEAD,

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Manoj Monga
Editor

Ureteroscopy

Indications, Instrumentation
& Technique

 Humana Press

Editor

Manoj Monga
Department of Urology
Stevan B. Strem Center for Endourology
& Stone Disease
Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute
The Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, OH, USA

ISBN 978-1-62703-205-6 ISBN 978-1-62703-206-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-62703-206-3
Springer New York Heidelberg Dordrecht London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2012952096

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Printed on acid-free paper

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To my family: Mary, Nate, Miles, Natalie, and Yogi.

Foreword

Ureteroscopy has become an important, universally accepted part of urologic endoscopy. It has grown from an interesting niche procedure to access the distal ureter into a standard procedure offering access throughout the upper urinary tract for visualization and also active interventional procedures. No longer are distal stones the only application. These have grown to include lateralizing hematuria, neoplasms, and obstructions. Even the application for stones has expanded to include larger calculi including full-branched stag-horn stones.

The time has come for a current text on ureteroscopy to summarize the development, the applications, and the present status of the procedure. I am happy to be a part of this effort, which includes authors who are first-, second-, and even fourth-generation endourologists.

Ureteroscopy is impossible without the appropriate instruments. The devices continue to evolve in relation to the need, usually resulting in an improvement in performance. It is in these areas that the laser has found its place in urology. The Holmium laser has become indispensable for many therapeutic interventions.

As indications increase for ureteroscopy in more complex situations, the “tips and tricks” of the procedure become even more important. Although all urologists are now familiar with and, probably, perform ureteroscopy, it is always possible to do it better. The sections on technique and complex cases address these issues.

The need for further development is clear. Unlike the rigid cystoscope, which has had only refinements over decades, the ureteroscopes continue to evolve. Many changes can be anticipated, while others may be surprises. All changes are limited by the anatomy of the upper urinary tract and the diseases to be treated.

This volume attempts to define the history of the procedure, the present status of ureteroscopy, and the potential for future development.

Philadelphia, PA, USA

Demetrius H. Bagley, MD, FACS

Preface

Urologists are progressive surgeons, with innovative and inquisitive minds that drive the development of new approaches to traditional challenges. Ureteroscopy has developed in this nurturing environment, since its early inception in the late 1970s to its current position as a mainstay in the armamentarium of minimally invasive approaches to the upper urinary tract. These advances have led to improved outcomes and decreased surgical morbidity.

The keys to any successful surgical procedure are selecting the right patient, setting the right expectations by appropriate patient counseling and consent, ensuring the availability of the necessary instrumentation, and using a precise and thoughtful technique. Nowhere are these keys more critical than in the delicate maneuvering of a ureteroscope.

Our goal is to provide all urologists with the evidence base one uses to make decisions regarding patient selection and to counsel patients on the risks and benefits of the procedure. Details on instrumentation and technique will be provided from many authors with varying preferences and techniques, such that the reader will be able to glean those “pearls” that will help them the most in their operating room. Lastly, we glimpse to the future, beyond those great strides that have been accomplished to what lies ahead that will help keep urologists at the forefront of endoscopic innovation.

Cleveland, OH, USA

Manoj Monga, MD

Acknowledgement

Connie Walsh for her outstanding editorial guidance and assistance.

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Contributors

Corollos Abdelshehid, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Samih Al-Hayek, MD, FRCS(Urol) Department of Urology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Christopher L. Allam, DO Endourology Division, Urology Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

J. Kyle Anderson, MD Department of Urology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Don C. Arnold II, MD Department of Urology, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Loma Linda, CA, USA

Timothy D. Averch, MD Department of Urology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Demetrius H. Bagley, MD, FACS Department of Urology and Radiology,, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

D. Duane Baldwin, MD Department of Urology, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Loma Linda, CA, USA

Naeem Bhojani, MD Urology, Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, IN, USA

Marluce Bibbo, MD, ScD Cytopathology Division, Pathology Department, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Vincent G. Bird, MD Minimally Invasive Surgery Division, Urology Department, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL, USA

Minimally Invasive Surgery Division, Urology Department, Shand's Hospital, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

Jeffrey A. Cadeddu, MD Department of Urology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, TX, USA

Benjamin K. Canales, MD, MPH Department of Urology, Center for the Study of Lithiasis and Pathological Calcification, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

Daniel J. Canter, MD Department of Urology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Doh Yoon Cha, MD Urology Department, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA

Ben H. Chew, MD, MSc, FRCSC Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Jane Cho, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Jacob H. Cohen, MD, MPH Department of Urology, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY, USA

Seth D. Cohen, MD Department of Urology, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY, USA

Seth A. Cohen, MD Urology Division, Surgery Department, U.C. San Diego Health System, San Diego, CA, USA

Michael J. Conlin, MD Urology Division, Surgery Department, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, OR, USA

Mitra R. de Cógain, MD Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

John D. Denstedt, MD, FRCSC, FACS Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

Mihir M. Desai, MD USC Institute of Urology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Branden G. Duffey, DO Urology Division, Surgery Department, San Antonio Military Medical Center, San Antonio, TX, USA

Brian Eisner, MD Department of Urology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Sean P. Elliott, MD Department of Urology, UT, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Stephen Faddegon, MD Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA

Gary J. Faerber, MD Department of Urology, University of Michigan Hospital and Health Systems, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Kendall J. Feia, MD Department of Urology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Kirsten Foell, MD, FRCSC Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Gerhard J. Fuchs, MD, FACS Urology Division, Surgery Department, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Andrew Fuller, MBBS Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

Matthew T. Gettman, MD Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

Matthew H.C. Goh, MBChB, MRCS(Eng), FRCS(Urol) Bristol Urological Institute, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, UK

Zachariah G. Goldsmith, MD, PhD Division of Urologic Surgery, Surgery Department, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA

Ricardo D. Gonzalez, BA Department of Urology, Center for the Study of Lithiasis and Pathological Calcification, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

Michael Grasso III, MD Department of Urology, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY, USA

Department of Urology, Medical College of New York, Valhalla, NY, USA

Joseph A. Graverson, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Mantu Gupta, MD Urology Department, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA
New York Presbyterian Kidney Stone Center, New York, NY, USA

Kelly A. Healy, MD Department of Urology and Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

R. John D'A. Honey, MD, FRCSC Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Elias S. Hyams, MD Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD, USA

Wahib E. Isac, MD Urology Department, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH, USA

Adam Kaplan, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Christopher E. Keel, DO Department of Urology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Francis X. Keeley Jr., MD, FRCS(Ed), FRCS(Urol) Bristol Urological Institute, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, UK

Nir Kleinmann, MD Department of Urology and Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Steven G. Koopman, MD Urology Division, Surgery Department, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Amy E. Krambeck, MD Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

Evgeniy Kreydin, MD Department of Urology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Bodo E. Knudsen, MD, FRCSC Department of Urology, Wexner Medical Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA

Jaime Landman, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Dirk Lange, MSc(Hon), PhD Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

David A. Leavitt, MD Department of Urology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Dennis J. Lee, MD USC Institute of Urology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

James E. Lingeman, MD Urology, Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, IN, USA

Michael E. Lipkin, MD Division of Urologic Surgery, Surgery Department, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA

Michael A. Liss, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Achim Lusch, MD Department of Urology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Tracy Marien, MD Department of Urology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

Department of Urology, NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY, USA

Brian R. Matlaga, MD, MPH Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD, USA

Joe Miller, MD Urology Department, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA

Thomas E. Milner, PhD Biomedical Engineering Department, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Manoj Monga, MD Department of Urology, Stevan B. Strem Center for Endourology & Stone Disease, Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

Michael E. Moran, MD Urology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

AUA's William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History, Arizona Institute of Urology, Tucson, AZ, USA

Debra Morrison Department of Anesthesiology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

Stephen Y. Nakada, MD, FACS Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

Mark J. Noble, MD Surgery Division, Urology Department, Glickman Urologic Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

Kenneth Ogan, MD Department of Urology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Zeph Okeke, MD The Arthur Smith Institute for Urology, Hofstra North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY, USA

Kenneth T. Pace, MD, MSc, FRCSC Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Vernon M. Pais Jr., MD Section of Urology, Department of Surgery, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Lebanon, NH, USA

Ryan F. Paterson, MD, FRCSC Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Margaret S. Pearle, MD, PhD Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA

Renato Nardi Pedro, MD, PhD Ambulatory Surgical Unit, Litotripsy Center, State University of Campinas, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Clinica Padre Almeida, Endourology and Kidney Stones Treatment, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Richard A.F. Pellatt, MBChB, BA(Hons) Bristol Urological Institute, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, UK

Glenn M. Preminger, MD Division of Urologic Surgery, Surgery Department, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA

Jinze Qiu, PhD Biomedical Engineering Department, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Ojas Shah, MD Department of Urology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

Department of Urology, NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY, USA

Adam B. Shrewsberry, MD Department of Urology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Sri Sivalingam, MD, MSc Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

Arthur D. Smith, MD The Arthur Smith Institute for Urology, Hofstra North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY, USA

Marshall L. Stoller, MD Urology Department, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA

Roger L. Sur, MD Urology Division, Surgery Department, U.C. San Diego Health System, San Diego, CA, USA

Surgery Department, Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences, San Diego, CA, USA

Nicholas N. Tadros, MD Urology Division, Surgery Department, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, USA

Yung Khan Tan, MBBS(Melbourne), MRCS(Edin) Department of Urology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre at Dallas, Dallas, TX, USA

Joel M.H. Teichman, MD, FRCS(C) Department of Urologic Sciences, St. Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Raju Thomas, MD, FACS, MHA Department of Urology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Nikhil Waingankar, MD The Arthur Smith Institute for Urology, Hofstra North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, New Hyde Park, NY, USA

Bingqing Wang, BSc Biomedical Engineering Department, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

J. Stuart Wolf Jr., MD Division of Endourology and Stone Disease, Department of Urology, University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI, USA