

SIMPLIFIED METHOD OF INDWELLING URETERAL STENT REMOVAL

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The indwelling double pigtail ureteral stent is a well-established method of internal urinary diversion for the urologist. It is utilized for temporary diversion in both pediatric and adult populations for reconstructive procedures of the renal pelvis and ureter. It can be placed transurethraly via the cystoscope to stent the ureter in ureteral obstructions and following balloon dilatation of a ureteral stricture.

The classic method of removal of an indwelling ureteral stent involves endoscopic retrieval with a cold cup biopsy forceps or alligator forceps. In most adults this is amenable to a local procedure, but in children, this entails a general anesthetic. We have found our method of stent removal to be simple and cost-effective.

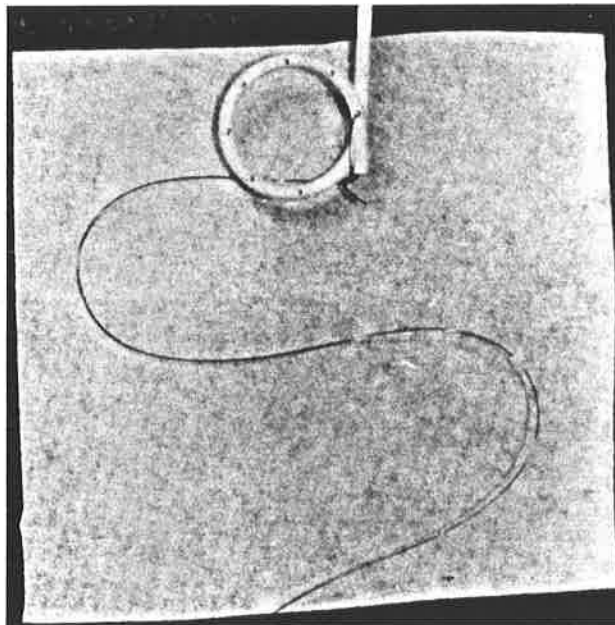


FIGURE 1. *Nylon suture tied to double pigtail stent.*

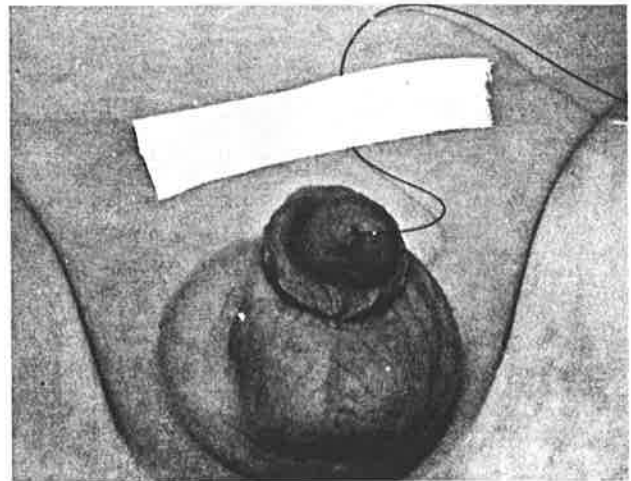


FIGURE 2. *Nylon suture taped to abdomen.*

A 4-0 or 5-0 monofilament nylon suture is tied through the small hole at the distal end of the coil of the stent. The needle is removed, leaving a generous tail of nylon (Fig. 1). A 13- or 14-F infant panendoscope is passed into the bladder and the double pigtail stent is passed over a flexible guide wire. After the stent has been properly seated and the pusher and guide wire are removed, the suture traverses the urethra and can be taped to the penis or abdomen (Fig. 2). Patients can void without discomfort or obstruction. When it is time to remove the stent, a gentle tug on the suture is sufficient to deliver it.

The benefits of this method are the avoidance of both a general anesthetic and unnecessary urethral instrumentation. An operative procedure with its attendant costs and risks is eliminated. This method likewise can be applied in adults with indwelling stents.

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