HOW TO TREAT THE STONES YOU DON'T WANT TO TREAT

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Goals

- Case-based presentation of challenging stones cases
- Practical tips and tricks
- How to stay out of trouble
- How to get out of trouble



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CASE PRESENTATIONS



Case #1

- 34 yo Female
- First stone episode in 2008
- 7-8 stone events since that time and multiple procedures
- SA: 70% Ca Phos, 20% Struvite, 10% Ca Carbonate
- Had a stent place on Oct 2016 for a right distal stone
- PMH: HTN









Labs

- Cr 0.82 mg/dL, eGFR > 90 mL/min/BSA
- Hgb 10.7 g/dL, WBC 9.2
- UA: Negative (just finished a course of cipro)



Treatment





- SA (bladder): 70% Ca phosphate, 20% struvite, 10% Ca carbonate
- SA (kidney): 90% Ca Phosphate, 10% Ca Carbonate
- Stone culture: mixed gram pos and neg (susceptibilities not performed)
- Cr 0.71 mg/dL



Prevention?

- Stent with tether
- Stent registry
- Stent tracking software
- Stent "book"



Case #2

- 55yo woman presents with right renal colic
- 7mm RUU radiolucent stone with moderate hydronephrosis on CT, with no other stones
- BMI 35, DM2, OSA with CPAP, HTN
- Opts for right ureteroscopy



Retrograde





Approach?

- Contrast bypasses stone, but quite tortuous ureter below stone
- Strategies? Approach?



What next?

- Bentson wire: no luck
- Able to get curved hybrid wire into kidney
- Does not straighten ureter much
- Cannot get ureteral catheter past stone
- Look up with flexible ureteroscope: cannot see around kink in ureter



Fight another day

- Unable to place stent (won't advance past stone even with access sheath below kink)
- Abort procedure
- Right perc nephrostomy
- What now?



Options

- Attempt placement of nephroureterostomy tube and then perform retrograde ureteroscopy
- Perform antegrade access and antegrade ureteroscopy
- Open/lap/robotic ureterolithotomy



Take home points

- It is OK to abandon URS rather than cause harm
- Prefer to stent if possible



Case #3

• 37yo ER nurse presents with left renal colic



3mm LUU stone with mild hydro



Case #3

- Pain settles, discharged home
- Seen in clinic two weeks later with persistent moderate hydronephrosis on US, stone still present
 - Patient asymptomatic
- Pt otherwise well, had XRT for lymphoma 5 years ago
- Plan?



Left ureteroscopy

- During left ureteroscopy ureter very narrow in caliber
- Able to advance 6.7F semirigid ureteroscope only 2-3 cm
- Now what?

Left ureteroscopy

- 4.5F pediatric ureteroscope also cannot pass
- Retrograde: no specific stricture, narrow caliber ureter
- Calibrate ureter with inner cannula of 9.5/11F access sheath: resistance
- Now what?



Fight another day

- Place ureteric stent (no tether)
- Abort procedure
- Return for URS in two weeks after passive dilation



History

- Urologic:
 - BPH, strictures, reimplants, radiation
- Anesthetic:
 - OSA, obesity, etc.
- Bleeding:
 - ASA, NSAIDS, antiplatelet agents
 - NOACs
 - Coumadin, heparin



Take home message

- It is OK to abandon URS rather than cause harm
- Prefer to stent if possible
- Possible role for pre-stenting prior to URS



Case #4

- 24 yo female
- Presents with right flank pain, nausea and emesis to ER
- Labs:
 - Fever 38.5
 - BP 108/64
 - Pulse 117
 - Cr 1.43 mg/dL
 - WBC 20.0
 - Abnormal urine microscopy: +nitrites, +leuk



- PMH:
 - Nephrolithiasis
 - s/p Right PCNL 2017, and left URS
 - SA: Calcium Phosphate





Next steps

- Empiric broad spectrum abx
- Right neph tube place by IR
- Cultures obtained from NT
- Low dose CT provides benefits with minimal exposure (6 mGy)





Definitive management

- Repeat US confirms persistent stone
- Right URS with LL and extraction
 - Under spinal anesthesia
 - Semi-rigid URS to fragment/extract stone
 - Flexible URS to clear ureter
 - US guidance
- No stent, NT maintained and capped after one week.
 - Tolerated for 24 hours removed in the office



Stones in pregnancy

• The recurring question

Drain

or

Remove the stone



Drain or remove?

Drain

- Infected system
- Early in pregnancy (T1)

Ureteroscopy

- Non-infected system
- Later in pregnancy (T3)
- Stone fails observation
- Ongoing symptoms
- Tube symptoms
- Drainage has failed
 - Encrusted tubes
 - Recurrent infections



Audience Poll

32yo primip, T3, 7mm right distal ureteral stone with ongoing colic, no evidence of infection

- 1. Insert ureteric stent
- 2. Place right nephrostomy tube
- 3. Right ureteroscopy and laser lithotripsy
- 4. Shock wave lithotripsy



CUA guidelines

- Recommendation: First-line diagnostic testing for stones in pregnancy is ultrasound, but low-dose CT or MRI can also be used.
- In those patients presenting with signs of sepsis, antibiotics and urinary decompression via a nephrostomy tube or ureteral stent are of primary importance.



CUA guidelines

- Definitive therapy should be delayed until the infection is treated.
- URS and laser lithotripsy is safe in pregnancy; however SWL and PCNL are contraindicated in pregnancy (Level of Evidence Level 4, Grade C)


AUA/ES Guidelines

- Guideline Statement 56
 - In pregnant patients with ureteral stones, clinicians may offer URS to patients who fail observation.
 - Ureteral stent and nephrostomy tube are alternative options with frequent stent or tube changes usually being necessary.
 - (Index Patient 15) Strong Recommendation; Evidence Level Grade C



Case #5

84 year old bedbound female from nursing home with history of:

- Dementia
- Atrial fibrillation on apixaban
- Stroke left sided hemiplegia
- Diabetes mellitus
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Hypertension
- Seizure disorder
- C. difficile colitis
- Recurrent ESBL E. Coli UTI
- Moderately atrophic right kidney



Management? No obstruction...

- Presents to hospital with recurrent fevers and hematuria
- Admitted to medicine and Urology consulted
 - Blood cultures negative
 - Urine cultures mixed growth
 - Renal function stable
- CT partial staghorn calculus without hydronephrosis
- Next step?



Management?





Management? Obstruction...

- 6 months later, presents to hospital with urosepsis: fever (T39) and hypotension
- Admitted to ICU
 - ESBL E. Coli bacteremia
 - Requiring inotropes / rebreather
- CT mild progression of staghorn calculus
 - Now with hydronephrosis + perinephric stranding
- Next step?



Management? Obstruction...





Left nephrostomy tube inserted





Converted to nephroureterostomy





Epilogue

- Nephroureterostomy tube left uncapped
- NT changes q2-3 months arranged as outpatient
- Single admission for obstructed nephroureterotomy tube in last 9 months
 - Despite obstruction antegrade drainage was maintained with nephroureterostomy tube
- Patient is now oxygen dependant



Perioperative Risk Assessment

- "not your father's Buick"
 - Typical PAC medicine consult likely low yield
- Consider formal optimization through an internist with interest in risk stratification
 - More time is always better
 - Duration of procedure
 - Safe to remain anticoagulated
 - Are there options (stent, NT, URS, PNL)
 - Risk of bleeding and fluid shifts
- Consideration of frailty (Canadian Frailty Scale) in addition to RCRI, ARISCAT (pulmonary function)

Consider Admission

- Easy to fall in the trap of doing endourologic procedures as day surgery
- Some elderly and or co-morbid well served by admission
 - Prevention and early detection of complications
 - CCS preop BNP and post op troponins



Case #6

- 72 y.o. male with L renal colic
- NCCT:
 - Lower L ureteral stone and large prostate
- Another urologist attempts ureteroscopy: unable to access L ureteral orifice
 - Referred patient for SWL



Management?





URS



Options

- Perc NU tube and retrograde URS
- Perc NT (or NU) tube and antegrade URS
- Open/lap/robotic ureterolithotomy



Retrograde approach #2





Now what?



Antegrade approach





Case #7

- 34yo woman
- Presents with right renal colic
- No signs of infection or sepsis
- Normal renal function
- No comorbidities





Management options?



6x5 mm right upper ureteral stone with mild hydro



Right ureteroscopy





Right retrograde pyelogram





Right ureteroscopy: What now?





Soldiering on





Completion of case

- Pulling out ureteroscope felt "pop"
- Long length of ureter extruded out urethral meatus with scope
- Used ureteral occlusion balloon to attempt to push ureter back to kidney: unsuccessful



(Reproduced with permission from Smiths Textbook of Endourology 2nd Ed.)

Now what?



Right perc nephrostomy



Antegrade and retrograde study





Antegrade and retrograde study





Management?

Other details:

- eGFR>90 ml/min
- Tiny (1mm) left lower calyceal stones
- No comorbidities
- No other surgical procedures



Options:

- Chronic nephrostomy
- Pyelovesical silicone tube (extra-urinary diversion)
- Nephrectomy
- Psoas hitch and very long Boari flap with renal descensus
- Ileal ureter interposition
- Autotransplant



Avulsion

- Rare injury. More common in era of blind basketing and early ureteroscopy.
- Cause of injury, forceful extraction of large stone fragment or forceful insertion of ureteroscope without access sheath. Usually upper ureteral injury.
- Stop procedure and obtain percutaneous drainage. Primary repair is rarely possible.
- Renal autotransplantation, ileal ureteral replacement or nephrectomy will be required as a secondary procedure.







Avoidance

- If ureter "tight" on scope: stent and return another day
- Use small caliber semi-rigid scopes (<10Fr)
- Always use safety guidewire for ureteric stones
- Do not attempt to extract stones that are not "sliding"



Case #8

- HPI: 42 year old male presents with intermittent right flank pain over the past 2 months. No history of UTIs.
- PMH:
 - Morbid obesity (BMI 45.3)
 - Kidney stones
 - DM
 - HTN
- PSH:
 - Right URS/stent (tolerated stent poorly)





Non-contrast CT

- 1.2 cm renal pelvis stone
- HU: 350
- SSD: >15 cm
- No hydronephrosis



Labs

- UA: urine pH = 5.0
- Urine C&S: negative
- K = 3.8
- Creatinine = 100
- eGFR = 89
- Management plan?



Dissolution therapy

- Rx: K citrate
- Follow up in 4 weeks
- Repeat CT shows no change
- Urine pH = 5.0
- Patient elects to undergo URS, but wishes to avoid a stent if at all possible.


