

Preface

Advances in ureteroscopy



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Guest Editor

Upper urinary tract visualization and treatment have been augmented by recent advancements in ureteroscopic technology. In addition, at some institutions ureteroscopy has become a common urologic procedure and is even the most common of all hospital-based urologic interventions. Advances in ureteroscopy include a technical reduction in the size of the endoscopes, improvements in electronic imaging systems, a proliferation of ancillary equipment, and widespread dissemination of advanced endourologic skills. In this issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America*, we are graced by a wealth of endo-urologic talent from which to draw, and the authors have done a remarkable job detailing the advances in each of their sections.

Virtually every area of the upper urinary tract is now amenable to a ureteroscopic procedure. Demetrius Bagley, the modern Prometheus of ureteroscopic surgery, begins the issue with an overview of the changes affecting current ureteroscopists. Next, the historical aspects are reviewed by the team from the University of California–Davis. Anatomical and physiologic considerations are discussed by the group at Yale University. The technology behind modern endoscopes is reviewed by the University of California–Irvine group, followed by an update on video and imaging systems from Duke University group.

The size of ureteroscopes continues to diminish and is now within the physiologic range of the nor-

mal ureter. This poses questions regarding the anesthetic necessary for completion of diagnostic and therapeutic ureteroscopic procedures. This is discussed by the team from the University of Toronto. Ancillary equipment has kept stride with advances in endoscopic instrumentation; this is discussed by Dr. Tim Averch from the University of Pittsburgh. Duke Herrell from Vanderbilt discusses advanced endo-urologic techniques that are critical to successful ureteroscopic maneuvers. The introductory section of the issue concludes with a review of the most significant controversy currently in ureteroscopic practice: the use of ureteral access sheaths. Jamie Landman of Washington University discusses the pros of this practice, while Marshall Stoller and the University of California–San Francisco team discuss the cons.

The entire latter half of this issue is devoted to current clinical ureteroscopic surgical practice. Roger Low from the University of California–Davis discusses intrarenal calculus applications. Raju Thomas's group present an update on their ureteroscopic endopyelotomy series. Bob Newman from the University of Florida reviews the use of ureteroscopes in the care and management of ureteral stricture disease. Mantu Gupta presents a review of the role of ureteroscopy in the management of upper tract transitional cell carcinoma. Paul Pietrow from the University of Kansas discusses the current state-of-the-art for diagnosing and managing upper tract hematuria.

Manoj Mongo from the University of Minnesota reviews advanced intrarenal ureteroscopic techniques. Finally, Pramod Reddy from Cincinnati Children's Hospital reviews applications in the pediatric population.

The issue concludes with an excellent review of ureteroscopy complications by Margaret Pearle from the University of Texas–Southwestern. John Denstedt rounds things off with a succinct overview of the controversy regarding stenting following ureteroscopy. Finally, we present an overview of changes by reviewing current trends from our own institution that updates the urologist with common problems encountered in the modern

application of ureteroscopy, including methods of lithotripsy, the need for routine dilatation, the controversies in technique, and the costs incurred by institutions in need of expensive equipment repairs.

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