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**GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE
LITHOTRIPSY (ESWL)**

The purpose of ESWL is to pulverize kidney stones to the extent that they may be passed spontaneously. ESWL does not actually remove the kidney stones. The sand-like particles created by the treatment will pass in the urine.

Some patients may experience pain as the particles pass through the ureter. Discomfort and soreness to the back or side is also possible. This may be mild to intense, but a prescription for pain-relieving medication may be given. Some patients may find extra-strength acetaminophen (Tylenol) is sufficient.

Additional ESWL treatment sessions may be required to adequately pulverize kidney stones. Large stones are more likely to require multiple treatment sessions but even small stones may require more than one treatment. If an additional ESWL treatment session is required, it will usually be done in a few weeks to a month after the initial treatment.

The adequacy of stone pulverization will be determined from x-rays taken at your hospital in conjunction with the first follow-up visit with your doctor. Occasionally numerous sand particles can obscure a larger stone fragment. A larger fragment may become apparent on x-rays taken several weeks later after the smaller particles have passed. Another ESWL treatment may be needed to complete the pulverization of any larger fragments.

Supplemental procedure(s) may be required. These may include a cystoscopy with ureteral catheterization stone manipulation, or basket extraction which may be done on the treatment table prior to lithotripsy. Ureteroscopy or placement of a percutaneous nephrostomy (a tube inserted into the kidney through the back) may be done at your own hospital.

Three months after ESWL most patients will be stone-free but a few will still have sand-like particles in their kidney. The long-term effects of these retained particles are not known.