

Extracorporeal Shockwave Lithotripsy (ESWL)

What is lithotripsy?

Lithotripsy (ESWL) is a non-invasive treatment for kidney and ureteral stones.

What happens during ESWL?

During your lithotripsy treatment you will be sedated. Low energy sound waves will help break up your kidney or ureteral stones. This enables the stone fragments to later pass through your urinary tract. A tingling or tapping sensation may be felt in the back during the procedure, but you will likely not remember this.

What can you expect after ESWL?

- You may expect to pass small stone fragments in the urine, especially within 1-2 weeks
- Hematuria (blood in your urine)
- Urinary frequency, urgency hesitation and/or burning due to passage of stone fragments
- Discomfort, redness, bruising or swelling of skin over the treated area
- You may be requested to strain your urine
- Resume normal activities unless advised otherwise
- You will be encouraged to increase your water intake, at least 8 full glasses a day

When should I call the doctor after my ESWL?

Call your doctor if you experience:

- Temperature over 100.4 degrees
- Worsening bleeding or clots in the urine
- Persistent nausea or vomiting
- Pain not controlled by your pain medication

