



Laser surgery for ureteric stones

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Ureteroscopic Holmium:YAG laser lithotripsy is a safe, technically feasible and efficacious treatment for ureteric calculus. The calculus has to be still to facilitate surgery and minimise the risk of injury to the ureter/collecting system.

A Baska Mask Airway was inserted after induction and anaesthesia maintained with 10mg of Morphine, 50% nitrous and desflurane with a MAC (minimal alveoli concentration) of 1.0, a tidal volume of 500mls and a respiratory rate of 10 to minimise stone movement. At the end of the procedure the patient was ventilated with 100% Oxygen to wash out the desflurane and enhance rapid recovery.

Neuromuscular blockade was not used as duration of surgery was unpredictable and also the need for adequate reversal. Spontaneous respiration was avoided as movement of the calculus made surgery difficult.

Desflurane was chosen because it was the cheapest volatile agent and had impressive recovery characteristics.

From a surgical view this technique was preferable to other anaesthetic techniques, as it minimises movement associated with respiration and keeps the calculus in constant view and in easy reach of the laser fibre.