Ureteroscopy using a detachable access sheath.

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Abstract

Ureteroscopy has evolved in many aspects, particularly in the flexibility and size of ureteroscopes. We have developed a new detachable access sheath to make ureteroscopic procedures more straight-forward and to reduce possible damage to delicate instruments used in the procedure.

KEYWORDS: ureteroscopy, detachable access sheath

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Ureteroscopy has evolved in many aspects, particularly in the flexibility and size of ureteroscopes. We have developed a new detachable access sheath to make ureteroscopic procedures more straightforward and to reduce possible damage to delicate instruments used in the procedure.

**Key words:** ureteroscopy, detachable access sheath
patient in the dorsal lithotomy position. Then, the ureteral orifice of the affected side is identified by a flexible ureteroscope mounted inside the detachable access sheath (Fig. 2). The scope is inserted into the lower ureter with the aid of a guide wire. After this step, the access sheath can be removed easily, while the scope maintains its position. Although Kim and Gerber reported that a cystoscope sheath can be used to prevent the scope from buckling and to decrease the friction against it [4], continued use of that sheath is not only cumbersome but also dangerous, in that damage possibly occurring in the delicate ureteroscope could, in turn, damage the ureter. On the other hand, anatomically or pathologically narrow points of the ureter, as well as the normal but small caliber of the ureter, sometimes make it difficult to advance the scope. In that situation, the detachable access sheath can be re-assembled and mounted on the ureteroscope to obtain clear transmission by avoiding buckling of the scope within the bladder (Figs. 3 and 4).

For these reasons, we believe the detachable access sheath is useful for beginners as well as trained urologists in uroscopy with a flexible scope.

References


Fig. 2 Insertion of a flexible ureteroscope mounted inside the access sheath.

Fig. 3 Fluoroscopy shows buckling of the ureteroscope within the bladder.

Fig. 4 Access sheath is re-assembled and positioned close to the ureteral orifice.