

Mayo Clinic Minute: Kidney stone surgeries

Video	Audio
	"Over the last several years, we have worked increasingly to make surgery even less invasive."
	Dr. Aaron Potretzke performs hundreds of kidney stone surgeries each year. One of the most common is a ureteroscopy. (ureeder- oscopy
Aaron Potretzke, M.D. Urology Mayo Clinic	"So we use a very small camera, about the size of a telephone cord, to go in through the urinary tract and visualize the stone, whether it be in the ureter or the kidney, or sometimes even in the bladder. And then we would break that stone up, if need be, usually with a laser, and then pick out the individual pieces."
	Another minimally invasive option is a percutaneous surgery, which may be recommended to remove very large kidney stones.
	"So we make a small incision, usually about the width of a finger, in someone's back, and then use larger instruments and cameras to look into the kidney and break up those stones."
	Dr. Potretzke says doctors at Mayo Clinic continue striving to make those incisions even smaller.
	"And that actually ends up mattering because, while the incision on the outside is smaller, the actual amount of meat of the kidney that you're disrupting is quite a bit less. And therefore, we think that it, in many cases, may reduce the risk of complications, reduce the risk of pain and enhance recovery."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.

