Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of commercialised extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy service: a review of 589 renal stones

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Mino Rizzo

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Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) has become a safe and accepted treatment for urinary tract stones since its introduction in the early 1980s and it was essentially limited to the management of renal and proximal ureteric stones. Improved technology in ESWL and advancement in lithotripsy design and fluoroscopic imaging has currently allowed successful identification and in situ treatment of calculi in the middle as well as the lower ureter.

In this retrospective study the author intends to demonstrate in his experience the efficacy of ESWL with a mobile lithotriptor system (Storz Modulith SLK, Storz Medical, Switzerland) in the treatment of renal stones and the need of JJ stent after lithotripsy.

Galli and al. recruited 461 patients in a period of eight years affected by renal stones. The patients selection is accurate as well as the way to study the patients in pre-operative time. The results show that, apart from the upper calyx, intra renal stone location was not associated with treatment efficacy, whereas an inverse relation was found between stone size and treatment efficacy.

This is in step with the other papers about this subject. It's very interesting the result about the need of JJ stent after lithotripsy. Indeed patients that did not require treatment with a JJ prior to ESWL had only a minimal risk of needing such treatment subsequently. Thus prophylactic placement before or after ESWL cannot be recommended.

It would be important to associate ESWL efficacy to CT attenuation value (HU) and then to stone composition apart from size and stone location like in other study ("The success of extracorporeal shock-wave lithotripsy based on the stone-attenuation value from non-contrast computed tomography", Arab J Urol. 2014 Jun; 12(2):155-161).

Statistic study is satisfying and the conclusions drawn are adequately supported by the data shown.

It's good written English.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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