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**TREATMENT OF LOWER URETERAL STONES:
A REVIEW OF 312 CASES.**

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES: The goal of this study is to review our experience in treatment of lower ureteral stones with ureteroscopy combined with endoscopic lithotripsy.

METHODS: Between October 1998 and April 2000, 312 patients underwent ureteroscopy and endoscopic lithotripsy for lower ureteral stones with Storz 9.5 Fr ureteroscope and a ballistic electromagnetic lithotripter (LITHOSPEC, MEDISPEC).

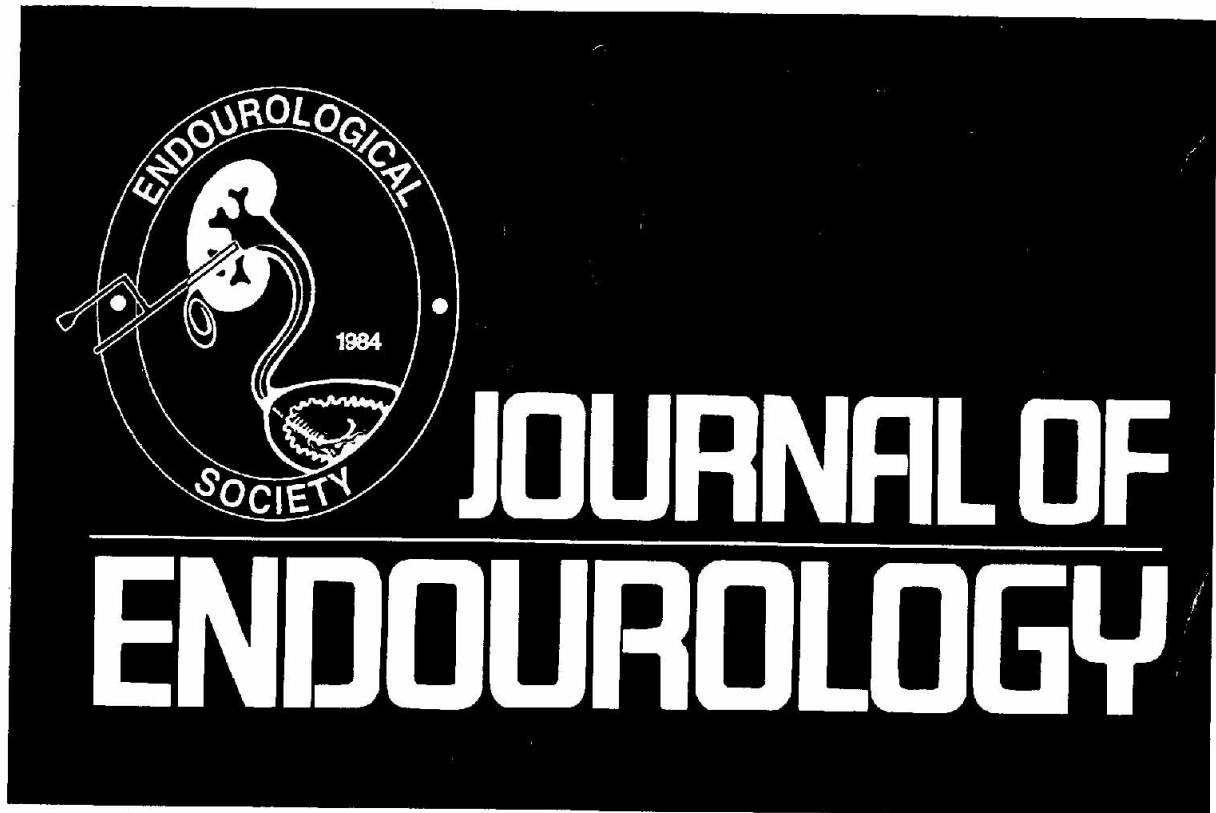
RESULTS: In 188 cases (60.25%), the stones were removed only with the basket. In 113 cases (36.21%), the lithotripter was used for complete fragmentation and elimination of the stones. In 3 cases, the stone was pushed back to the renal pelvis and those patients underwent further extra-corporal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL). In 2 cases, the fragmentation was incomplete, and second procedure was needed.

Regarding complications, there were 9 ureteral perforations, but only 2 patients needed open surgery.

In 3 cases, false passage (dissecting the mucosa away from muscularis) less than 1 cm occurred, but all 3 cases were successfully treated conservatively with double J stent. One case of pyelonephritis was documented.

CONCLUSIONS: Ureteroscopy with endoscopic lithotripsy is a safe and highly effective method of treatment of lower ureteral stones.

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