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CityHospital JEFFERSON
Memorial Hospital

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Jefferson Memorial Offers Lithotripsy Kidney Stone Treatment

RANSON, W.Va. – West Virginia University Hospitals-East’s Jefferson Memorial Hospital recently introduced non-surgical shockwave lithotripsy to its outpatient services. According to the National Kidney Foundation, about one million Americans suffer from kidney stones every year, most of them between the ages of 20 and 40.

“Patients suffering from painful kidney stones will now have convenient access to this treatment in Jefferson County, eliminating the need to go out of the area for the service,” stated Martha Mumaw, manager of surgical services at Jefferson Memorial Hospital.

Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy is a comfortable, non-surgical day stay procedure for kidney stone sufferers. “The procedure recently became available here at Jefferson Memorial Hospital, allowing patients who used to travel a distance for treatment to now find it close to home,” Mumaw said.

Kidney stones are a common disorder of the urinary tract in which crystals made up primarily of calcium separate from the urine and build up on the inner surfaces of the kidney. The exact cause of kidney stone formation is unclear, and there is no known preventive cure in the vast majority of cases. The stones range in size and usually are passed through urine over time. Kidney stones are not only painful, but the condition often recurs. Lithotripsy reduces some of the pain as well as the overwhelming anticipation of passing stones.

During the procedure, the patient is sedated while high-energy shock waves are sent through the body to break the stones into smaller pieces. These pieces can then pass through the urinary tract in the urine with less pain and discomfort. The complete treatment takes about 40 minutes, with minimal side effects. Sometimes it takes more than one treatment to eliminate all of the kidney stones.

“The lithotripter has dramatically changed the course of kidney stone disease treatment,” commented Mohammed Mohiuddin, MD, board certified urologist at Jefferson Memorial Hospital. “Lithotripsy is normally performed on an outpatient basis and often without general anesthesia, so recovery times are generally only a few hours and most patients can return to work the next day,” he added.

Lithotripsy is not the only treatment for kidney stones, according to Mohiuddin. “There are multiple options, including low invasive endoscopic procedures that may be more effective when the lower part of the urinary tract is affected,” he explained. “However, lithotripsy still remains a popular option when a patient’s physician indicates it,” he added.

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Jefferson Memorial Hospital's lithotripsy procedure will be provided by HealthTronics through a mobile service. For more information, call the WVUH-East marketing department at 264-1223.

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