

## Worldwide survey of flexible ureteroscopy (FURS) practice: A survey from EAU sections of Young Academic Urologists (YAU) and Uro-Technology (ESUT)

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**Introduction & Objectives:** Ureteroscopy is an accepted method for treatment of stone disease. We wanted to assess the worldwide pattern of availability in equipment and technology, with the technique used by urologists while treating stone disease.

**Materials & Methods:** The survey consisted of 42 questions distributed between November 2017 and December 2018 during the bi-annual EAU section of uro-technology (ESUT) meeting and via survey monkey to Endourologists across Europe.

**Results:** A total of 114 responses were obtained of which 100 (88%) had successfully completed it. The average time taken for it was 5.4 minutes. Of the responders, 75% were endourologists and 25% were general urologists. The case volume and the number of available flexible ureteroscopes are as stated in the table. Disposable scopes were either not used at all (60%) or used in up to 20% patients by a third of respondents. A single peri-operative prophylactic antibiotic dose was given by 67%. The type of irrigation used was manual (46%), mechanical (22%) or gravity (27%). An access sheath was always or almost always used by 75% responders. The mode of intra-renal stone treatment was chosen as dusting (40%), fragmentation with basketing (12%) or a combination of both (48%). Post-operative stent was used by 54% respondents in >80% of their patients and 28% in 60-80% of their patients.

What is your subspecialty of interest?

Endourology – 75%, General Urology – 25%

How many renal/ureteric stone cases does your unit deal with annually?

<25	25-50	50-100	100-150	150-200	>200
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2%	2%	6%	14%	19%	56%
How many flexible ureteroscopes do you have in your unit?					
1	2	3	4	>5	>10
5%	27%	22%	13%	23%	9%
How many of these flexible scopes are 'digital' scopes?					
1	2	3	4	>5	>10
30%	30%	10%	9%	8%	1%
What is the estimated number of flexible ureteroscopy performed in your unit annually?					
<25	25-50	51-100	101-200	>201	not sure
11%	14%	28%	23%	23%	1%
Over the last year how many flexible ureteroscopes have been damaged?					
1	2	3	>5	>10	
37%	29%	10%	16%	8%	
Which is the most frequent damage to your scope?					
Laser damage	Loss of deflection	Optical damage	Don't know		
24%	25%	31%	20%		

**Conclusions:** There seems to be a wide variation in the availability of technology and technique used by urologists. While most respondents work in a medium or high-volume centre and have access to digital scopes, disposable scopes are still not used widely. Among endourologists, the use of single dose peri-operative antibiotics, access sheath, stone dusting and post-operative stent seems to be the most common treatment pathway.