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13 December 2007

The Hong Kong Society of Endourology Announces The Latest Stone Disease and Management Survey Results

The results of a survey to urologists on ESWL treatment on urinary stone and the results of community survey on renal stone disease were released during the East Asian Society of Endourology annual meeting on 13 – 16 December 2007.

The survey on ESWL found that 62% of the urologists had received referrals for ESWL related complications in the last 12 months. The 4 most common complications were: 1) steinstrasse causing ureteric obstruction and colic; 2) urinary tract infection; 3) peri renal haematoma and 4) asymptomatic obstruction. 60% of the respondents reported that the complications were likely to be related to inappropriate use of ESWL. 44% reported that the stone was too large for ESWL. 6% reported that the stone was too small and should not use ESWL at all. 17% reported that the patients received too many sessions of ESWL and should have switched to using other treatment options earlier.

Dr. SK Li, President of the Hong Kong Society of Endourology pointed out that treatment of urinary stone depended on the size, location and hardness of the stones. Other factors included kidney anatomy, renal function and the overall health status of the patients. ESWL is a good treatment method but is not the only way and in a lot of cases, may not be the best way. It is not harmless and may be associated with complication particularly if it is inappropriately used. Patients with urinary stone disease should discuss with their urologists for the best treatment plan.

On the other hand, Dr Wai-Hee Chan, Honorary Secretary of the Hong Kong Society of Endourology, announced the survey results on urinary stone disease conducted by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Programme earlier in November 2007. This survey was found to be useful in planning for public campaigns to promote public health by educating people on how to prevent urinary stone. According to the findings, approximately 10% of the Hong Kong families had at least one member with urinary stone disease; and less than half of the population knew that one must drink at least 2,000ml of fluid every day in order to avoid the formation of urinary stone; more than two-thirds of the respondents failed to drink this much every day; and two-thirds of the respondents did not know that restricting calcium intake was not a preventive measure of urinary stone disease.

Finally, Dr SK Li announced that the establishment of the Hong Kong Society of Endourology did have positive effect on promoting public awareness in stone disease prevention and on the overall improvement on stone management.

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Fact Sheet

The Hong Kong Society of Endourology

The Hong Kong Society of Endourology (HKSE) was established in March 2006 by a group of urologists who share the same vision of committing to developing endourology / minimally invasive urology. It is the first endourological society in Hong Kong and has 10 council members and approximately 50 members.

The establishment of endourological societies is a global trend and such organisations as the Endourological Society and the East Asian Society of Endourology have been established for more than 10 years. The establishment of HKSE follows the global practice and is in line with our Asian counterparts such as Japan and Korea.

Endourology or minimally invasive urology is one of those fast-growing sub-specialties of urology. The application of laparoscopy and the clinical use of various forms of energy for kidneys and prostate, in particular, are the most frequently discussed topics in recent urology meetings. Because of its great volume of materials and accumulated clinical experiences, there is a need for endourology to stem from its parent specialty and become a separate platform for development.

While the Urological Association is regarded as a parent society that takes care of and coordinates all fields of urology in general and safeguards all the interest of urologists in political terms, HKSE will mainly focus on subjects relating to endourology. Its objective is to provide a channel for the development and promotion of endourology and all forms of minimally invasive urological topics. It also gears towards the training and dissemination of endourological skills and knowledge, so that more people will benefit from the latest advances of the field.

To achieve its objectives, HKSE will also affiliate with the East Asian Society of Endourology and with the Endourological Society on one hand, and will collaborate with other urological organisations and other endoscopic / minimally invasive surgery societies on the other.