Forgotten DJ Stent

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A Double- J (DJ) ureteral stent is an indispensable tool of urologist's armamentarium. One of the problems associated with its widespread use is a forgotten stent i.e. a stent that the patient forgets to get removed for a period of more than six months, though the exact definition of a forgotten stent does not exist.[1] There are many reports in the literature of the complications of such a situation.[1,2] Recently, a middle aged female patient was managed who had a DJ stent inserted seven years back (for a ureteric repair) and presently reported with irritative urinary symptoms. An x-ray of the abdomen revealed the presence of the stent. There was apprehension while removing it cystoscopically but it came out easily. There were concretions deposited on its renal end (Fig I).
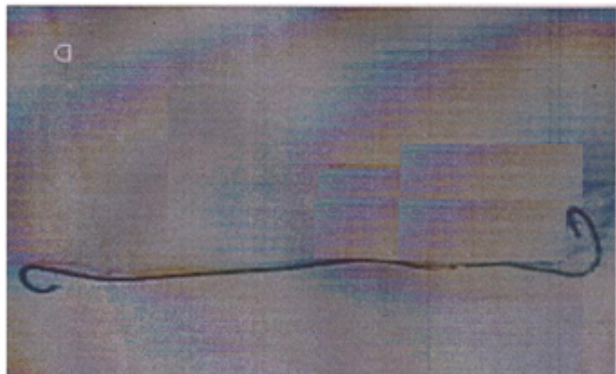

Figure 1: The extracted stent

Some amount of calculus formation may be the only complication that needs to be managed while removing a forgotten stent. Whatever is the amount of calculus formation, it can be easily disintegrated with the modern techniques available with every urologist viz ESWL, PCNL URS and bladder litholapaxy.[3] As such, there is no need to get worked up over a stent indwelling for more than the necessary period. Whatever steps may be taken (e.g. better record keeping), this complication cannot be entirely avoided. It is therefore apt to say that a 'forgotten' stent should be 'forgiven'.

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