



Editorial Comment: Renal Stone Features Are More Important Than Renal Anatomy to Predict Shock Wave Lithotripsy Outcomes: Results from a Prospective Study with CT Follow-Up

Toricelli FCM¹, Monga M², Yamauchi FI¹, Marchini GS¹, Danilovic A¹, Vicentini FC¹, Batagello CA¹, Srougi M¹, Nahas WC¹, Mazzucchi E¹

¹ Division of Urology, Hospital das Clínicas, University of Sao Paulo Medical School, Sao Paulo, Brazil; ² Stevan B. Strem Center for Endourology & Stone Disease, Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

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Alexandre Danilovic¹

¹ Serviço de Urologia, Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da USP - HCFMUSP, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

COMMENT

Predictors of shock wave lithotripsy (SWL) outcomes have been widely studied. Both renal stone features and collecting system anatomy are considered to play a major role to predict stone free rate of SWL. To date, EAU guideline recommends avoid SWL in lower pole kidney stone with an infundibulopelvic angle < 70°, an infundibular length > 30°, and an infundibular width ≤ 5 mm (1). However, those anatomical features were evaluated using intravenous pyelography, rarely used nowadays.

In this study, the authors used computerized tomography (CT) to challenge the concept of the importance of the lower pole location to the outcomes of SWL. In this prospective clinical study, the authors demonstrated the major predictors of SWL success were stone size, stone density and stone-skin distance but not stone location.

Interestingly, collecting system anatomy evaluated by CT seems to play a major role in flexible ureteroscopy (2) but not in SWL. In order to promote stone fragmentation, Holmium laser success depends more on collecting system anatomy but SWL depends more on stone features.

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Alexandre Danilovic, MD

Serviço de Urologia, Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da USP - HCFMUSP, São Paulo, SP, Brasil
E-mail: alexandre.danilovic@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

 **Alexandre Danilovic**
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6963-6117>

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