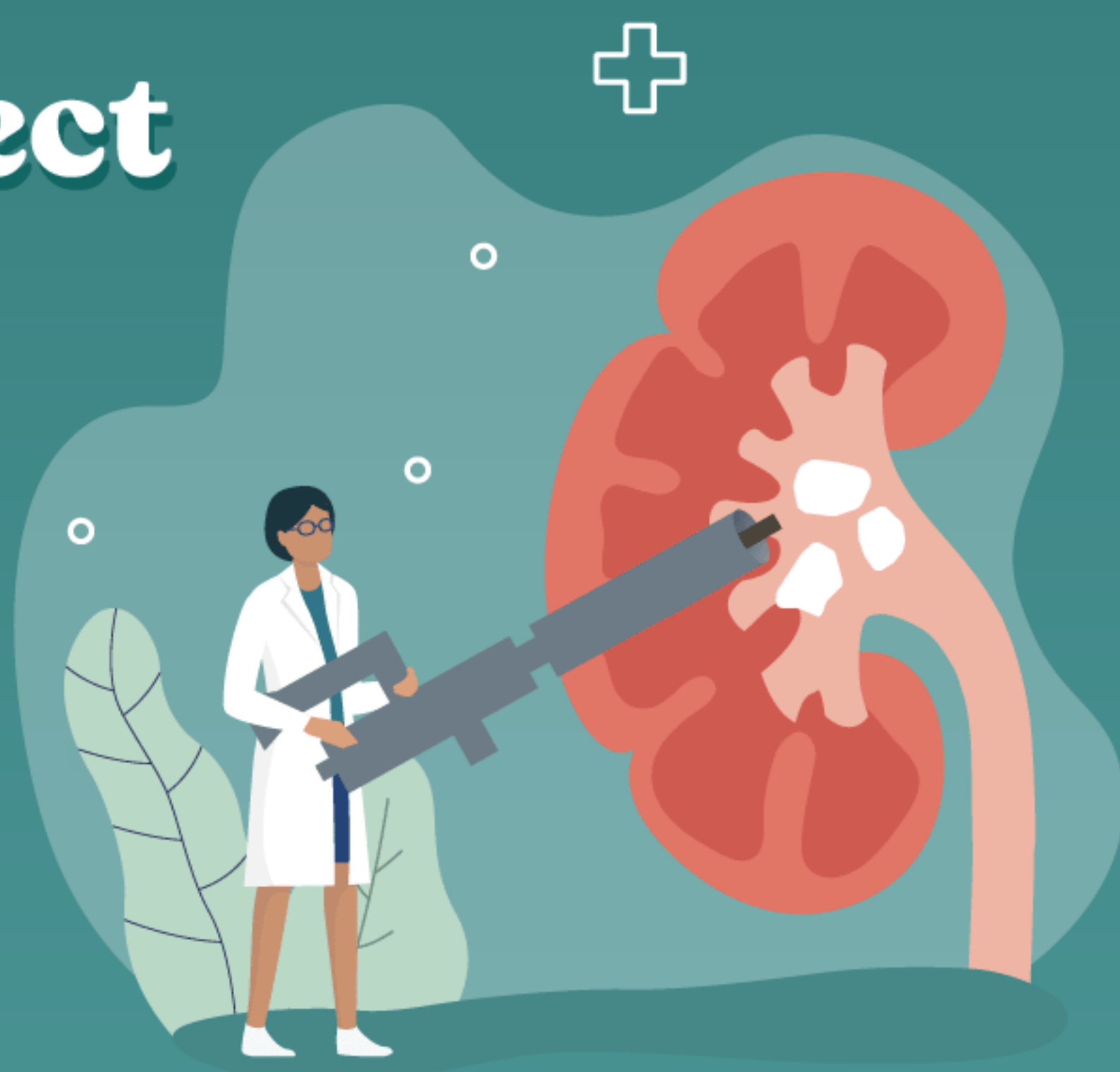


# What to expect with PCNL

*Percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL) is a minimally invasive, keyhole surgery performed to remove larger stones directly from your kidney.*



## BEFORE

- May have to **stop blood-thinning medication** a few days before
- No food, liquid or nicotine intake **6-8 hours** before procedure

## DURING

- Performed under **general anesthesia**
- To gain access to your kidney, a **tube may be placed in your back** before or during surgery
- Through this point of access to the kidney, the surgeon will dilate this tract up to a desired size and extract large stone fragments through a sheath.
- A **double-J stent** may be inserted to ensure that swelling does not block the drainage of urine
- A **nephrostomy tube** may also be left in the kidney to drain urine and blood directly from your kidney, into a drainage bag

## AFTER

- 1-2 day **hospital stay**
- Likely that a **urinary catheter will be inserted**
  - To help drain urine from your bladder
  - Expect some **lower urinary tract symptoms** (e.g. small amount of blood in the urine) and **moderate pain**
- Double-J stent and nephrostomy tube will be removed some time after the surgery, depending on your condition

Source:  
*Percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL). Patient Information. (2021, April 22). Retrieved from <https://patients.uroweb.org/treatments/percutaneous-nephrolithotomy-pcnl/>*

*Surgical Management of Stones: AUA/Endourology Society Guideline (2016). Kidney Stones: Surgical Management Guideline - American Urological Association. (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.auanet.org/guidelines/guidelines/kidney-stones-surgical-management-guideline>*