

Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment to A giant calculus within urethral diverticulum causing urinary retention in an uncommunicative woman

As the authors stated, female urethral diverticula and calculus in the diverticulum are very rare, so the case report reported here may be very useful in clinical management.¹

Abusanad OZ *et al.* reported that calculus in a urethral diverticulum caused urinary retention,² but this patient had invasive bladder cancer, so it is unclear whether the cause of the urinary retention was a calculus in the urethral diverticulum. In this case report, dysuria and hydronephrosis improved after-treatment of the calculus, so it is probable that the calculus in the urethral diverticulum was a cause of the urinary retention.

Concerning calculus in the urethral diverticulum, it has been reported that calcium oxalate or calcium phosphate are common when stones occurring in the upper urinary tract are trapped in the urethral diverticulum, on the contrary, magnesium ammonium phosphate crystals often constitute the major component of calculus that develops from the urethral diverticulum.³ In this case, the composition of the calculus cannot rule out the possibility that the stone originated within a urethral diverticulum, so it is possible that the calculus may be recurrently triggered by a urinary tract infection and other events in the future.

In addition, transurethral lithotripsy has been used for urethral diverticula in some reports.⁴ In recent years, devices in the field of endourology have made remarkable progress, and it is possible that approaches for the short urethra of women and cases with a narrow diverticular opening will become possible, and that there will be more opportunities for endoscopic treatment of these urethral diverticular calculi in the future. In the present case, only transurethral lithotripsy was performed because the patient did not give consent for diver-

ticulectomy. However, in general, the treatment of urethral diverticulum is surgical excision of the diverticulum.

Therefore, the long-term clinical course of this case is very interesting and we would expect to see more reports on this case in the future.

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Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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