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**Minimally invasive management of salivary calculi: Analysis of 5258 cases**

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*Introduction:* Five centres have focused on minimally invasive salivary treatment (MIST); subsequent concentration of experience plus development of minimally invasive equipment has led to a progressive change in the standard of treatment offered to patients in these centres.

This paper reports a collective experience of over >4600 cases treated since 1990.

*Methods:* In the period 1990–2004, 5258 patients with 5993 salivary stones were seen at five centres. Patients excluded were those treated by intra-oral release, refused

treatment, ductal stenosis, advanced disease necessitating gland removal or lost following their initial assessment. The remaining 4691 cases underwent MIST data were collected prospectively and pooled for analysis.

*Results:* 4691 were entered into the minimally invasive programme. Calculi were successfully removed in 80.47%, partial success was achieved in 16.67% and these patients did not receive further treatment or were lost to follow up. Treatment failed and salivary glands had to be removed in 2.86% of patients.

*Discussion:* In patients with obstructive disease over 75% of stones can be successfully retrieved leaving a functionally normal salivary gland system intact and only 2% of patients require gland excision. These data would suggest a new standard of practice for obstructive salivary gland disease is being established.

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