

undergoing KTP laser PVP are generally treated as outpatients and many become catheter-free in less than 24 hours and stated to return to work in 2 to 3 days thus minimising loss of productivity, thus reducing the health care costs despite the additional cost of a single use laser fiber²². The cost effectiveness depends to a large extent on the different reimbursement systems in different countries, which may be the reason that the majority of KTP laser patients are treated as outpatients in the United States but hospitalised in European countries. In general, all three procedures, PVP, HoLAP, and HoLEP can be performed as day care procedures, at least in patients with small and medium sized prostates. In larger glands undergoing PVP two or even three fibres may be necessary thus adding to exorbitant cost per procedure. The KTP laser is an exclusive "benign prostatic hyperplasia only" laser. The simplicity of the procedure is not an exclusive feature of KTP laser vaporisation because the identical procedure can also be executed with the holmium side fire laser. The cost and availability of the equipment is an important factor in developing countries as India. The initial cost of KTP laser is high and the cost of fiber is added in every case. Apart from this, there is a high maintenance cost associated with laser machines. In comparison, TURP equipment is easily available, cheap with minimum maintenance cost, and is available with every urologist as basic equipment. The large variety of lasers and techniques of laser prostatectomy shows that none is perfect so far.

CONCLUSIONS

PVP has a well established record for safety, low morbidity, rapid recovery and short-term durability. Early results are encouraging but the long-term outcome is still faltering. PVP is not a panacea as has been hyped upon and is plagued by being a BPH exclusive laser with high cost. KTP PVP Lasers are unwanted in the surgical management of BPH in developing countries because of the cost, unproven long-term durability and no advantages over the gold standard management of TURP.

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