Ureteral Stenting

Ureteral injuries are often iatrogenic, occurring most frequently during gynecologic procedures, although they may also occur during general surgery and urologic procedures. The most vulnerable sites for injury are at the pelvic brim, lateral to the uterus, over the iliac vessels, near the apex of the obturator fossa, and at their insertion on the trigone. Most of these injuries occur during uncomplicated surgeries, however there is an increased likelihood when the anatomy is disrupted by malignancy, inflammation, adhesions, or scarring from previous irradiation. Placing ureteral stents at the beginning of a surgical procedure may help in identifying the course of the ureters; however Bothwell et al. concluded that this type of prophylactic stenting did not prevent ureteral injury. Although this may be the case, stents could help surgeons identify injuries quicker so that they may be repaired accordingly. Of course, placing stents is not without risks including ureteral stricture, such that this practice continues to be controversial.

References: