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## Kidney stone treatment

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Caption: Kidney stone treatment. Medical researcher testing a method for monitoring kidney stone treatment. Kidney stones are deposits of calcium and other minerals in the kidneys and ureters. They can be treated by breaking up the stones using pulses of ultrasound. The researcher is using a "smart" stethoscope, held to the patient's abdomen, to detect the echoes that reverberate around the body after each pulse. The laptop displays an oscilloscope trace of these echoes. This method was developed in the UK by researchers from Southampton University, working with doctors from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, London, where this photograph was taken. The technique was trialled in hospitals from 2004.

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