

# EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE LITHOTRIPSY



Salivary gland calculi or salivary gland stone is the main cause of obstructive salivary gland disease and constitutes about 50% of salivary gland diseases. We, at Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals regularly encounter patients with salivary gland calculi which causes major discomfort for the patient while eating. Conventional surgical methods include milking out the calculi or in cases of larger calculi, performing extensive surgery to dissect out the calculi from the gland or the duct. At times, the salivary gland itself might have to be removed. This is a cause of extensive morbidity for the patient.

Enter the age of minimally invasive techniques, we, at Saveetha dental college and hospitals ensure each and every patient is treated with minimal post-operative morbidity which has made us acquire Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL) device.

ESWL has been successfully used to treat salivary stones in a way that is similar to that used in urology and gastroenterology. It has a probe which is applied externally over the salivary gland in question. Shock-wave lithotripsy fragments salivary stones into smaller pieces using the shock-waves generated by the change in impedance at the stone/water interface, which induces a compressive wave that spreads through the stone and an expansive wave that pits and cavitates it, thus making it more easily cleared from the salivary duct system spontaneously after sialogogue-induced salivation, or during endoscopic procedures. It is easy to perform, repeatable, safe, generally well-

tolerated, and can be carried out on an outpatient basis without anaesthesia. Thus, peri-operative mobility is drastically reduced.

The acquisition of ESWL has been a game changer in the treatment of salivary gland stones at saveetha dental college and hospitals as the procedure is relatively painless and well tolerated by our patients. Moreover the complications associated with removal of salivary gland due to salivary stone and the risks associated with undergoing a surgery under general anaesthesia is eliminated.

Always a cut above the rest, we at saveetha dental college and hospitals ensure that each and every patient is treated with utmost care and our students stay abreast with the latest means of therapy in each and every field so that they are always ahead than their peers from other universities.

