

Shock Wave Lithotripsy: A Technology Update by *The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*

(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1987) pp. vi + 7, ISBN 0-642-13183-X.

Extra corporeal shock wave lithotripsy is a non-invasive technique that disintegrates stones in the kidney and the ureteral tract. More recently lithotripters have been used to disintegrate biliary stones.

This report describes the 'second generation' of lithotripters which are now becoming available for clinical use overseas, and supplements a 1985 NHTAP Reprint **Shock Wave Lithotripsy**.

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Usage of Endoscopy in Australia by *The National Health Technology Advisory Panel*

(Australian Institute of Health, Canberra, 1987) pp. vi + 36, ISBN 0-642-12165-6.

'An endoscope is a tubular device through which light can be transmitted, permitting the visual examination of the interior of an organ. It may be inserted into the organ through a natural opening in the body, or through surgical openings in the skin' (p. 3). A major technological development was the use of fibre optic materials in the construction of endoscopes in the 1950s.

This report presents data on the utilisation of endoscopic procedures in Australia (mainly from 1980-81 to 1985-86), discusses training and certification of the providers of these services and considers the impact on alternative procedures. The objective of the report is to provide 'a basis for further discussion.'

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