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# The management of stone disease

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## Introduction

Countries in the Afro-Asian stone belt (stretching from Egypt and Sudan, through the Middle East, India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines) falling within the tropical and subtropical regions have consistently reported a high incidence of urolithiasis. Generally in this region the population density is high, the gross national product is low and 30–50% of the population live below the poverty line. Poor nutritional status and inadequate health facilities

## Epidemiology

The epidemiology of urolithiasis remains poorly investigated in the region. Incidence or prevalence rates are mostly based on hospital admissions. Countries of the region show wide variations in prevalence and the site of stone disease (Table 1) [4,9–16]. Bladder stones constitute 10–15% of the stone burden in adult and 15–30% in paediatric stone-formers [4,17]. Affluence in some of the countries of the region has increased the prevalence rates, with a reduction in the prevalence of