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lith·o·trip·ter also **lith·o·trip·tor** 🗣️ (lĭth ə-trĭp'tər)

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n.

A device that pulverizes kidney stones and gallstones by passing shock waves through a water-filled tub in which the patient sits.

[Alteration of obsolete *lithotriptor*, *lithonriptor*, from *lithonriptic*, breaking up kidney stones, from New Latin *lithonripticus*, alteration (influenced by Greek *trībein*, *trĭp-*, to rub, pound) of *lithonthrypticus*, from Greek (*pharmaka tōn en nephroīs*) *lithōn thruptika*, (drugs) crushing stones (in the kidneys) : *lithōn*, genitive pl. of *lithos*, stone + *thruptika*, neuter pl. of *thruptikos*, crushing (from *thruptein*, to crush; see **dhreu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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