Laboratory Diagnosis Of Kidney Diseases And Frequency Of Meeting.

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Abstract: Kidney stones are a common disorder, with an annual incidence of eight cases per 1,000 adults. During an episode of renal colic, the first priority is to rule out conditions requiring immediate referral to an emergency department, then to alleviate pain, preferably with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug. The diagnostic workup consists of urinalysis, urine culture, and imaging to confirm the diagnosis and assess for conditions requiring active stone removal, such as urinary infection or a stone larger than 10 mm. Conservative management consists of pain control, medical expulsive therapy with an alpha blocker, and follow-up imaging within 14 days to monitor stone position and assess for hydronephrosis. Asymptomatic kidney stones should be followed with serial imaging, and should be removed in case of growth, symptoms, urinary obstruction, recurrent infections, or lack of access to health care. All patients with kidney stones should be screened for risk of stone recurrence with medical history, basic laboratory evaluation, and imaging. Lifestyle modifications such as increased fluid intake should be recommended for all patients, and thiazide diuretics, allopurinol, or citrates should be prescribed for patients with recurrent calcium stones. Patients at high risk of stone recurrence should be referred for additional metabolic assessment, which can serve as a basis for tailored preventive measures.

Keywords: Kidney stones

Kidney stones are a common disorder, with an annual incidence of eight cases per 1,000 adults. During an episode of renal colic, the first priority is to rule out conditions requiring immediate referral to an emergency department, then to alleviate pain, preferably with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug. The diagnostic workup consists of urinalysis, urine culture, and imaging to confirm the diagnosis and assess for conditions requiring active stone removal, such as urinary infection or a stone larger than 10 mm. Conservative management consists of pain control, medical expulsive therapy with an alpha blocker, and follow-up imaging within 14 days to monitor stone position and assess for hydronephrosis. Asymptomatic kidney stones should be followed with serial imaging, and should be removed in case of growth, symptoms, urinary obstruction, recurrent infections, or lack of access to health care. All patients with kidney stones should be screened for risk of stone recurrence with medical history, basic laboratory evaluation, and imaging. Lifestyle modifications such as increased fluid intake should be recommended for all patients, and thiazide diuretics, allopurinol, or citrates should be prescribed for patients with recurrent calcium stones. Patients at high risk of stone recurrence should be referred for additional metabolic assessment, which can serve as a basis for tailored preventive measures.

Table 1 lists the incidence of different types of kidney stones among children and adults in developed countries.3-8 Most are of noninfectious etiology and are associated with low fluid intake, hot climate, and certain comorbidities and risk factors (e.g., hypertension; gout; obesity; nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; excessive intake of protein, carbohydrates, and sodium). Increasing exposure to these risk factors may explain the rising incidence of kidney stones and their prevalence in men, non-Hispanic whites, and persons with low socioeconomic status. The annual incidence of kidney stones is about eight cases per 1,000 adults and peaks around midlife in developed countries

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Acute renal colic presents as cramping and intermittent abdominal and flank pain as kidney stones travel down the ureter from the kidney to the bladder.2 Pain is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and malaise; fever and chills may also be present.2 Similarity with a previous episode should increase confidence in the diagnosis,

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although the value of personal or family history during an episode of renal colic is not known. The physical examination should be directed toward excluding differential diagnoses (e.g., urinary tract infection, musculoskeletal inflammation or spasm, ectopic pregnancy, testicular torsion, malignancy; Table 2).2,12-14 The initial workup of a patient with suspected kidney stones in the primary care setting should include point-of-care urinalysis to detect blood, because hematuria helps confirm the diagnosis.

TABLE 1

Composition of Kidney Stones in Developed Countries		
Stone type	Children (%)	Adults (%)
Calcium oxalate	60–90	32–46
Calcium phosphate	10–20	3–5
Both	29	40
Cystine	1 - 5	1
Struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate)	1 - 18	2 - 15
Uric acid	1–10	3–16

TABLE 2

Differential Diagnosis of Kidney Stones		
Clinical clues	Suggested diagnoses	
Dysuria	Interstitial cystitis (pelvic pain syndrome), prostatitis, urinary tract infection, vaginiti	
Fever, chills	Nonspecific response to infection or inflammation (e.g., pyelonephritis)	
Hematuria	Benign prostatic hyperplasia, renal glomerular disease, urinary tract infection, uroepithelial or prostatic tumor	
Nausea, vomiting	Gastrointestinal disease, intestinal or urinary obstruction, nonspecific response to pain .	
Pain and tenderness		
Abdominal	Acute mesenteric ischemia, cholecystitis, gastrointestinal disease, leaking abdominal aortic aneurysm.	
Groin or pelvis	Ectopic pregnancy, hernia, ovarian pathology, pelvic inflammatory disease, pelvic pain syndrome, prostatitis, testicular mass, testicular torsion, urethritis, vaginitis	
Suprapubic	Interstitial cystitis, peritonitis, prostatitis, urinary calculi, urinary tract infection .	

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Benign prostatic hyperplasia, bladder spasms, high fluid intake, hyperglycemia, urinary tract
infection

ACUTE MANAGEMENT

Pain relief is the priority in the acute management of renal colic. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g., ketorolac, 30 to 60 mg intramuscularly) are more effective and have fewer adverse effects than opioids. If an opioid is used, meperidine (Demerol) should be avoided because of the significant risk of nausea and vomiting. Neither scopolamine nor increased fluid intake alleviates renal colic. Immediate referral to a urologist or emergency department is warranted when medical analgesia is insufficient; when sepsis is suspected; when anuria, bilateral obstruction, urinary tract infection with renal obstruction, or obstruction of the sole functioning kidney are present; in women who are pregnant or have delayed menstruation (because of the risk of ectopic pregnancy); and in patients who have potential comorbidities or are older than 60 years, especially those with arteriopathy (because of the risk of leaking abdominal aortic aneurysm).

DIAGNOSTIC WORKUP

When immediate referral is not indicated, urine culture and urinalysis (if not already done) should be ordered to rule out infection, as well as imaging to confirm the diagnosis of kidney stones and assess for hydronephrosis and stone size and position. Although non–contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen and pelvis has superior sensitivity and specificity and is commonly performed in the emergency department, first-line ultrasonography has acceptable performance and is more cost-effective. Intravenous urography with plain radiography has limited accuracy and is no longer the preferred diagnostic imaging modality for kidney stones.5 There is no direct evidence for the optimal timing of diagnostic workup for acute renal colic in the primary care setting.

FOLLOW-UP

Conservative management is indicated if referral is not necessary. Patients should receive pain medication as needed, and follow-up imaging (ultrasonography and possibly plain radiography) should be obtained once within 14 days to monitor evolving stone position and assess for hydronephrosis. Complete urinary obstruction causes irreversible loss of kidney function, but patients with well-controlled pain and no significant degree of hydronephrosis have only partial obstruction and can be followed for about four to six weeks. If the stone does not pass spontaneously, the patient should be referred to a urologist for active stone removal. Approximately 86% of kidney stones pass spontaneously; this proportion is lower for stones larger than 6 mm (59% vs. 90% for smaller stones). Although stones larger than 6 mm in diameter are often removed by urologists, these are the stones that have greatest benefit from medical expulsive therapy. Medical expulsive therapy with alpha blockers, 0.4 mg per day; doxazosin, 4 mg per day) hastens and increases the likelihood of stone passage, reduces pain, and prevents surgical interventions and hospital admissions. These medications should be offered to patients with distal ureteral stones 5 to 10 mm in diameter. Tamsulosin is the most studied medication, but other alpha blockers seem equally effective. Calcium channel blockers (e.g., nifedipine) are less effective and may be no more effective than placebo. Coadministration of oral corticosteroids or increasing fluid intake does not hasten stone passage or alleviate renal colic.

Further Evaluation in the Subacute Setting

Patients with newly diagnosed kidney stones should receive a basic evaluation consisting of a detailed medical history, serum chemistry, and urinalysis/urine culture. Patients at risk of stone recurrence should be referred for additional metabolic testing (e.g., 24-hour urine collection for total volume, pH, and calcium oxalate, uric acid, citrate, sodium, potassium, and creatinine levels) and individualized preventive measures. The medical history should review the stone history (including family history of kidney stones), diet, current medications, and conditions associated with an increased risk of kidney stones. The patient should be instructed to strain his or her urine to catch the stone, then send the stone in a urine specimen cup or a clean, dry container for analysis; non–calcium oxalate stones require additional metabolic testing. Recurrent stones should also be considered for analysis because their composition may differ from the initial stone. When stone analysis is not

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available, ultrasonography should be ordered to look for renal abnormalities if it was not performed before the stone was passed. Non–contrast-enhanced CT should be considered if residual stone is suspected; this modality may help identify stone composition.31 Basic laboratory evaluations include creatinine (for renal function), ionized calcium (for hyperparathyroidism), and uric acid (for hyperuricemia); parathyroid hormone should be measured only if the serum calcium level is high.15,31 If a stone was not retrieved for analysis, additional tests should be considered: urine pH (for nephrocalcinosis and other metabolic abnormalities), microscopy of sediment from morning urine (for urine crystals that may suggest stone composition), and a test for cystinuria (especially in children because it is an inherited metabolic disorder).

Prevention

Measures to prevent recurrence of kidney stones include lifestyle modifications, citrate supplementation, and medications.2,15,31,38,39 Lifestyle modifications are the cornerstone of prevention after a first kidney stone in patients with low risk of recurrence, whereas citrate supplementation and medications are reserved for patients with recurrent stones.15,31,38,39 Patients at high risk of stone recurrence should receive preventive measures tailored to the results of the metabolic assessment.

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