

ROLE OF MULTI-DETECTOR C.T. IN THE EVALUATION OF PATIENTS WITH HEMATURIA

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of **M.D degree in
Radiodiagnosis**

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2010

Acknowledgment

*I would like to express my deep gratitude to **Prof. Sameh Hanna**, Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Cairo University, **Prof. Mohamed EL-Gammal**, Professor of Urology, Cairo university and **Dr. Nadine Rashad Barsoum**, Lecturer of Radiodiagnosis, Cairo University for their great help and support in performing this thesis.*

Abstract:

With the advent of MDCT it is possible to do comprehensive examination for hematuria patients. The imaging plan is to be decided, either to perform thin slice non-enhanced cuts in suspected stone disease or multiphasic series for suspected renal or urothelial lesions or to perform CT urethrography in suspected urethral lesions, depending on the clinical data & previous examinations that the patient had.

Multiphasic CT technique performed with a combination of cortico-medullary, nephrographic-phase, and excretory-phase imaging can demonstrate a wide spectrum of disease in those patients using a single modality. Unenhanced imaging can be sacrificed depending on cortico-medullary & nephrographic phase images from kidney to the UB to assess for stones. Then we depend on the three phases in assessment for neoplastic lesions putting in mind the pattern of enhancement of such lesions. Findings at excretory-phase imaging mimic IVU findings and allow excellent evaluation of the collecting systems and ureters. Bladder disease is often well seen on enhanced & excretory-phase images & with virtual cystoscopy.

Urethral lesions can be properly assessed by voiding or ascending CT urethrography providing interesting reformat including curved plane, vessel analysis & virtual images, that are informative about the site, extent & degree of urethral stricture & it may be helpful for detection of periurethral lesions like periurethral fibrotic tissue or fistulous tracts.

In our study, everyday's causes of hematuria were almost covered using a 4-detector scanner giving good quality images with informative reformat that was very conclusive compared to the previous traditional examinations that the patient had. Those reformatted images have met good acceptance by the referring urologist that was comparable to the endoscopic & surgical results, proving that MDCT can give accurate evaluation for hematuria patients instead of performing multiple traditional studies that may expose the patient to frequent contrast material & to frequent radiation exposure.

KEY WORDS

MDCT_HEMATARIA

List of Contents

	Page
• LIST OF ABBREVIATION.....	i
• LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
• TABLES & CHARTS.....	iv
• INTRODUCTION.....	1
• AIM OF WORK.....	3
• NORMAL ANATOMY OF THE URINARY SYSTEM	4
• PATHOLOGY OF HEMATURIA.....	16
• IMAGING MODALITIES OF HEMATURIA PATIENTS..	18
• MDCT Techniques used for examination of patients with Hematuria:	
A. MDCT examination of the kidneys & upper urinary tract by different enhancement phases.....	21
B. Examination of the urethra for assessment of urethral lesions.....	35
• CLINICAL APPLICATIONS OF MDCT IN ASSESSMENT Of The URINARY TRACT IN HEMATURIA:	
▪ Urolithiasis.....	38
▪ Congenital anomalies.....	38
▪ Renal mass evaluation.....	50
▪ Primary urothelial tumours.....	66
▪ Clinical applications in UB lesions.....	74
▪	

▪ Clinical application in the urethral lesions....	76
▪ Rare conditions: nut-cracker syndrome	80
▪ Artifacts of CT urography and virtual endoscopy.....	81
• PATIENTS & METHODS	82
• RESULTS	86
• CASE PRESENTATION	92
• DISCUSSION.....	140
• CONCLUSION.....	150
• RECOMMENDATION	151
• REFERENCES	153
• ARABIC SUMMARY.....	164

List of abbreviations

AV	: Arterio-venous.
CT	: Computed tomography.
CTA	: CT angiography.
CTU	: CT urography.
CP	: Curved plane.
HU	: Housefield unit.
IVP	: Intravenous pyelography.
IVU	: Intravenous urography.
LN	: Lymph node.
MDCT	: Multi-detector computed tomography.
MPR	: Multi-planar reformat.
MIP	: Maximal intensity projection.
MRI	: Magnetic Resonance Imaging.
MRU	: MR urography
RA	: Renal artery.
RV	: Renal vein.
RCC	: Renal cell carcinoma.
TCC	: Transitional cell carcinoma.
UPJO	: Uretro-pelvic junction obstruction.
US	: ultrasound.
VR	: Volume rendering.
3D	: Three dimensional.

List of Figures

	Page
Figure 1: Kidneys & their location in the abdominal cavity.....	5
Figure 2 & 3: Normal renal vascular anatomy page	9
Figure 4: UB & proximal urethra page	4
Figure 5: Urethral anatomy	15
Figure 6: Unenhanced axial CT at level of renal hilum.....	22
Figure 7: Projection radiographic images used in urography.	28
Figure 8: MPR	34
Figure 9 : These indirect signs of stone migration	39
Figure 10 : Curved multiplanar reformation of left ureter.....	40
Figure 11: Hilar clock-face view.	43
Figure 12: UPJO	45
Figure 13: UPJO : inverted teardrop shape of left UPJO,	47
Figure 14: UPJO: Oblique sagittal hilar clock-face view.	48
Figure 15: RCC: unenhanced , corticomedullary & nephrographic phases	51
Figure 16: Renal cell carcinoma: corticomedullary phase	56
Figure 17: Perinephric spread of renal cell carcinoma	57
Figure 18: 3D CT obtained during corticomedullary phase.....	58
Figure 19: RCC with enhancing tumoral thrombus.....	59
Figure 20: RCC with tumoral thrombus extension in left RV & IVC ...	61
Figure 21: RCC with tumoral extension into the IVC.....	61
Figure 22: RCC extension into supradiaphragmatic level of IVC.....	61

Figure 23: RCC with enhancing retroperitoneal nodal metastases	62
Figure 24: Large RCC with possible extension into the liver.....	63
Figure 25: Small RCC for nephron-sparing nephrectomy.....	65
Figure 26: RCC extending to the renal hilum.....	65
Figure 27: Multiple urothelial carcinomas involving the collecting system and proximal ureter.	66
Figure 28: MDCT of Papillary TCC of Rt. collecting system.	68
Figure 29: Excretory phase axial MDCT image of TCC.....	69
Figure 30: Excretory phase axial MDCT scan of TCC.....	70
Figure 31: Papillary TCC of Lt. collecting system: axial MDCT image	72
Figure 32: Bladder carcinoma, Virtual & Conventional cystoscopic images.....	74
Figure 33: TCC of the bladder, excretory-phase CT	75
Figure 34: Neurogenic bladder and multiple diverticula	75
Figure 35: 3D volume-rendered urogram	76
Figure 36: Retrograde urethrogram, VR CT voiding urethrogram, Virtual urethroscopy	78
Figure 37: urethral stricture. Coronal reformatted image	79
Figure 38: CT voiding urethrogram, vessel view,	79
Figure 39: Nutcracker syndrome	80
Figure 40: Motion artifact distorts CT urography image	81
Figure 41: Inadequate contrast mixing in virtual cystoscopy.....	81
Figures of the cases 42 to 124.....	92-139

Tables & Charts

Table 1: Staging of renal cell carcinoma: TNM system	55
Table 2: Phases of renal examination by MDCT.....	83
Chart 1: Anatomical distribution of cases	101
Chart 2: Pathological lesions in the renal cases.....	103
Chart 3: Benign versus malignant renal tumours.....	103
Chart 4: Pathological lesions in the ureteric cases.....	104
Chart 5: Pathological lesions in the urethral cases.....	106

INTRODUCTION

Hematuria has a wide range of causes, including calculi, neoplasms, infection, trauma & coagulopathy (*Grossfeld GD, et al. 2001*).

Many imaging modalities have been used in the evaluation of patients with hematuria. Historically, intravenous urography (IVU) has been the primary method of imaging in these patients. Currently, the examinations that are commonly used to evaluate patients with hematuria include IVU, ultrasonography (US), computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, retrograde ureterography and pyelography, cystoscopy, and ureteroscopy (*Sandor A. Joffe. et al, 2003*).

With the advent of spiral CT and particularly multi-detector row CT, it is possible to perform a comprehensive evaluation of hematuria patients with a single examination. Multidetector CT can be performed with a combination of unenhanced, arterial, nephrographic-phase, and excretory-phase imaging (*Caoili EM. et al, 2003*).

Unenhanced images may be obtained to evaluate the urinary tract for calculi and to assist in the characterization of renal masses. Arterial-phase images through the kidneys and bladder to evaluate for vascular abnormalities. Arterial-phase images may be particularly helpful in detecting arteriovenous malformations and demonstrating the arterial anatomy in surgical candidates. Other vascular abnormalities such as aberrant renal veins and venous thrombosis can usually be seen on nephrographic-phase images. Nephrographic phase images to assess the renal parenchyma &

characterization of masses. Excretory phase images to assess pelvicalyceal system, ureters & urinary bladder (*Sandor A. Joffe. et al, 2003*).

Three-dimensional reformation is performed with volume rendering (VR) or maximum-intensity-projection (MIP) techniques. Calyceal detail is occasionally better seen on MIP images. Three-dimensional (3D) reformation of the excretory-phase images can produce images that mimic the appearance of intravenous urograms, thus providing images in a format that is familiar to many referring physicians (*Sandor A. Joffe. et al, 2003*).

Recent advances in MDCT, rapid image acquisition, and software have made 2D and 3D reformatted images available for the newer diagnostic techniques. The thin-section transverse images and high scanning speed of CT have led to the development of promising new techniques for urethral evaluation: CT voiding urethrography and virtual urethroscopy. With these techniques, the voiding, contrast-filled urethra is scanned with MDCT in few seconds. Real-time 3D rendering of CT images is performed to visually simulate urethroscopic examination (*Rubin GD et al, 1996*).

Aim of work

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the patients coming with hematuria, using the different capabilities of MDCT to evaluate the whole urinary system including renal parenchyma, renal vasculature, ureters, urinary bladder & urethra, producing reformatted & virtual images to which the clinicians are familiar, so as to detect any pathological abnormality explaining the this hematuria.

NORMAL ANATOMY OF THE URINARY SYSTEM

The urinary organs comprise the kidneys, which secrete the urine, the ureters which convey urine to the urinary bladder, where it is for a time retained; and the urethra, through which it is discharged from the body.

The Kidneys

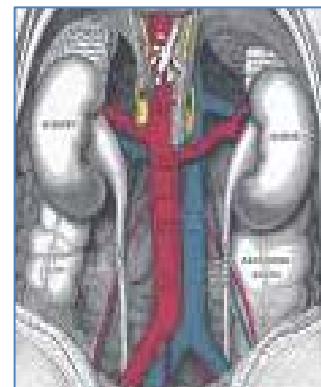
The kidneys are situated in the posterior part of the abdomen, one on either side of the vertebral column, behind the peritoneum, and surrounded by a mass of fat and loose areolar tissue. Their upper extremities are on a level with the upper border of the twelfth thoracic vertebra, their lower extremities on a level with the third lumbar. The right kidney is usually slightly lower than the left, probably on account of the vicinity of the liver. The long axis of each kidney is directed downward and laterally; the transverse axis backward and laterally. Each kidney is about 11.25 cm. in length, 5 to 7.5 cm. in breadth, and rather more than 2.5 cm. in thickness. The left is somewhat longer, and narrower, than the right. The kidney has a characteristic form, and has two surfaces, two borders, and an upper and lower extremities (*Hall-Craggs, 1985*).

At the level of the kidneys, the retro peritoneum is divided into three spaces the anterior para-renal, the peri-renal, and the posterior para-renal spaces. The anterior para-renal space extends from the posterior parietal peritoneum anteriorly, to the anterior renal fascia posteriorly. This space contains the pancreas, the duodenum the descending and ascending colon. The anterior para-renal spaces are continuous across the midline (*Harell, 1989*).

The peri-renal space is bounded anteriorly by the anterior renal fascia, and posteriorly, by the posterior renal fascia, It contains a variable quantity of fat. The medial border is concave in the center at the hilum and convex toward either extremity, related above to the adrenal gland. The hilum transmits the renal vein in front, the renal artery in the middle, and the ureter behind (*Harell, 1989*).

The posterior pararenal space extends from the posterior renal fascia to the fascia overlying the quadratus lumborum and the psoas muscle, it has a variable medial extent and is open laterally towards the flank. It contains no retroperitoneal organs (Fig. 1) (*Harell, 1965*).

Fig.1: Kidneys & their location in the abdominal cavity (*Williams PL. et al, 1995*).



General Structure of the Kidney: The cortex is the outer region. It lies immediately beneath the capsule and extends inward as the renal columns of Berlin. The cortex is about 1 cm in thickness, it is well vascularized and envelops the renal pyramids. The medulla, the inner region, is made up of several conical structures (up to 16 medullary pyramids may be present). The bases of the pyramids are located at the cortico-medulry junction and the apices extend into the hilum of the kidney as the papillae. Each papilla is "grasped" by a hollow minor calyx. The minor calyces are the branches of 3-