TUMORS

The commonest malignant T of the kidney is the:

1. Renal cell carcinoma = RCC (85%)
2. Nephroblastoma = Wilm’s tumor (10%)
3. Carcinoma of the renal calyces & pelvis (5%).

Benign renal T, such as small (<0.5 cm) cortical papillary adenomas or interstitial cell medullary fibromas have no clinical significance.

Tumors of bladder are much more common than the RCC.

Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC)
Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the third most common cancer of the genitourinary tract and the most lethal urologic cancer, accounting for approximately 2% of all cancer deaths.

RCC are derived from the renal tubular epithelium, & hence they are located predominantly in the renal cortex.

RCC represent 85% of all primary renal cancers.

RCC are most common from the 6th to 7th decades, & men are affected about twice as commonly as women.

Approximately one-third of the patients with RCC will present with metastases, and many patients will develop metastasis after surgical resection.

Traditionally, RCC is known to be resistant to chemotherapy. However, there has been tremendous development in effective molecular targeted therapies in the past few years for specific types of RCC with well-defined histology and molecular abnormalities.

Therefore, accurate histologic diagnosis and classification is increasingly important.

The risk of developing RCC is higher in: smokers, hypertensive, obese patients, & those who have had occupational exposure to cadmium.

30-fold in individuals who develop acquired polycystic disease as a complication of chronic dialysis.

The role of genetic factors in the causation of RCC is discussed below.
Based on their molecular origins, RCC are classified in 3 forms:

(I) Clear Cell RCC (80%)

(II) Papillary RCC (15%)

(III) Chromophobe RCC (5%)

(I) Clear cell RCC

Commonest type, comprises 80% of all RCC. Tumor cells show clear or granular cytoplasm. Majority are sporadic, also occur in familial forms or in association with:

- An autosomal dominant von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease characterized by predisposition to a variety of tumors, but particularly to hemangioblastomas of the cerebellum & retina.
- Hundreds of bilateral renal cysts & bilateral, multiple, clear cell RCC develop in 40% to 60% of VHL disease patients.
- Those with VHL syndrome inherit a germ-line mutation of the VHL gene on chromosome 3p25 & lose of the second allele by somatic mutation.

Thus, the loss of both copies of this tumor suppressor gene gives rise to clear cell RCC.

The VHL gene is also involved in the majority of sporadic clear cell RCC. Thus, homozygous loss of the VHL gene seems to be the common underlying molecular abnormality in both sporadic & familial forms of clear cell RCC.

The VHL protein is involved in limiting the angiogenic response to hypoxia; thus, its absence may lead to angiogenesis & tumor growth.

(II) Papillary RCC

Comprises 15% of RCC.

Shows papillary growth pattern.

Are frequently multifocal & bilateral;

Occurs in familial & sporadic forms,

The cause is the MET proto-oncogene, located on chromosome 7q31.

Trisomy of chromosome 7 is seen commonly in both familial & sporadic cases, with the addition of an activating mutation of the MET gene in the familial cases only.
(III) Chromophobe RCC

- **Rarest** (5%) type of RCC.
- Arise from **intercalated cells of collecting ducts**.
- **Tumor cells stain more darkly** (hence the name, i.e., they are less clear than cells in clear cell RCC).

Unique in having **multiple losses of entire chromosomes**, including chromosomes 1, 2, 6, 10, 13, 17, & 21.

In general, chromophobe RCC have a good prognosis.

**Morphology**

- Grossly, the clear cell RCC is usually **solitary, spherical & large mass**, up to 15 cm in Ø, arising anywhere in the cortex, & its cut surface is **yellow orange** with areas of cystic necrosis & fresh or old **hemorrhages**.

- As the tumor enlarges, it frequently invades:
  - (a) the **renal vein** growing as a solid column within it, sometimes extending as far as the **inferior vena cava** & even into the right side of the heart.
  - (b) Less frequently through Walls of the **calyces, pelvis & the ureter**
  - (c) Occasionally, in to the **perinephric fat & adrenal gland**.

- **Histologically**,
  - Depending on the amounts of lipid & glycogen present, the tumor cells may appear:
    - (a) Classically **vacuolated**, with lipid-laden clear cells, with small & round nuclei
    - (b) **Granular cells**, resembling the tubular epithelium, with granular pink cytoplasm.

Some tumors exhibit marked degrees of **anaplasia**, with numerous mitotic figures & markedly enlarged, hyperchromatic, pleomorphic nuclei.

The cellular arrangement, too, varies widely, with cells forming **tubules, cords or disorganized masses**. The stroma is usually scant, but highly vascularized.

**Grossly:**
- **the papillary RCC** exhibit papillally formation with fibrovascular cores. They tend to be bilateral & multiple, & may show gross evidence of cystic degeneration, necrosis & hemorrhage; but because of their lower lipid content, they are less orange-yellow in color. The cells can have clear or pink cytoplasm.

- **Chromophobe RCC** tends to be tan-brown grossly. Their cells usually have clear, flocculent cytoplasm with very prominent, distinct cell membranes. The nuclei are surrounded by halos of cleared cytoplasm. By EM, large numbers of characteristic macrovesicles are seen.
Clinically,

the most frequent & characteristic presenting manifestation of all RCCs is:
(I) **Hematuria**, occurring in more than 50% of cases.

Less commonly as;
(II) **painful, palpable flank mass**, or may
(III) **present with metastases**, in which the primary T may remain silent & is discovered only after it metastasizes to other sites, the commonest are the lungs & bones.

Extra-renal nonspecific effects of RCC are (1) **fever**, (2) **polycythemia** affecting 5% to 10% of persons with RCC resulting from elaboration of erythropoietin by tumor cells.

Uncommonly, RCC may cause (3) **paraneoplastic syndromes** due to their production of a variety of hormone-like substances, resulting in **hypercalcemia, hypertension, Cushing syndrome, feminization or masculinization**.

**IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL TECHNIQUES IN RENAL NEOPLASMS**

- Immunohistochemical techniques with a variety of markers have been applied more frequently in diagnostic pathology of renal neoplasm.

Some of the most important and useful markers for the diagnosis of renal neoplasm include **cytokeratins, vimentin, PAX2, PAX8, RCC marker, CD10, E-cadherin, kidney-specific cadherin, parvalbumin, a-methylacyl coenzyme A racemase, CD117, TFE3, thrombomodulin, uroplakin III, p63, CD57**.

+ Each marker has its diagnostic role in a specific diagnostic setting.
+ The common diagnostic situations that call for immunohistochemical staining are differential diagnoses of renal versus non renal neoplasms.

**T1**
- T1a: tumor confined to kidney, <4 cm
- T1b: tumor confined to kidney, >4 cm but <7 cm

**T2: limited to kidney >7 cm**
- T2a: tumor confined to kidney, >7 cm but not >10 cm
- T2b: tumor confined to kidney, >10 cm

**T3: tumor extension into major veins or perinephric tissues, but not into ipsilateral adrenal gland or beyond Gerota’s fascia**
- T3a: tumor grossly extends into the renal vein or its segmental (muscle-containing) branches, or tumor invades perirenal and/or renal sinus fat but not beyond the Gerota fascia
T3b: spread to infra diaphragmatic IVC
T3c: spread to supra diaphragmatic IVC or invades the wall of the IVC

T4: involves ipsilateral adrenal gland or invades beyond Gerota's fascia

N
N0: no nodal involvement
N1: metastatic involvement of regional lymph node(s)

M
M0: no distant metastases
M1: distant metastases

Stage groupings
stage I: T1 N0 M0
stage II: T2 N0 M0
stage III: T3 or N1 with M0
stage IV: T4 or M1

Nephroblastoma (Wilm’s Tumor)
+ Represent 10% of all renal cancers.
+ The 3rd most common solid cancer in children younger than 10 years; it occurs rarely in adults,
+ A mixed tumor, contain a variety of cell & tissue components (epithelial & mesenchymal), all derived from the mesoderm.
+ Like retinoblastoma, it may arise sporadically or be familial, inherited as an autosomal dominant trait.

Tumors of the (Renal calyces, Pelvis, Ureter, Urinary Bladder & Urethra)
The entire urinary collecting system, from renal calyces to urethra is lined by transitional epithelium, so its epithelial tumors assume transitional or “urothelial” patterns.
► Clinically, the most common presentation of all these tumors is painless hematuria
A small tumor in the ureter may cause urinary outflow obstruction & hydronephrosis, have greater clinical significance than a much larger mass in the bladder.

Renal pelvis papillary TCC a carcinomas (comprising 5% of all kidney ca), are much less frequent than bladder ca. Usually causes painless hematuria; but if they cause obstruction, it may result in hydronephrosis and pain in the costovertebral angle.
Infiltration of the walls of the pelvis, calyces, & renal vein worsens the prognosis
Bladder tumors classified into:

1. **Very rare benign papillomas, usually solitary**, 0.2-1.0 cm frond-like structures having a delicate fibrovascular core covered by multilayered completely normal looking transitional epithelium. They are noninvasive & rarely recur once removed.

2. **Papillary urothelial tumors of low malignant potential.**

3. **Transitional (Urothelial) carcinoma (TCCa)** may be papillary or flat, noninvasive or invasive & low or high grade.

**Low-grade (Grade I) ca**
- are always papillary & rarely invasive, may recur after removal.
- Increasing degrees of cellular atypia & anaplasia are seen in papillary exophytic tumors accompanied by an increase in the size of the tumor & evidence of invasion of the submucosal.

**High-grade (Grades II & III) ca**
- can be papillary or flat may cover larger areas of the mucosa, invade deeper in the muscular layer, may ulcerate, & may show foci of squamous differentiation.

5% of bladder ca in US (BUT up 50% else where in world) are usually associated with Schistosomal cystitis are true squamous cell ca

- Grades II & III ca infiltrate surrounding structures, spread to regional LNs & occasionally metastasize.
- In addition to overt ca, an in situ (pre-invasive) stage of bladder carcinoma can be recognized, often in individuals with previous or simultaneous papillary or invasive tumors.
- Bladder ca affect men 3 times as frequently as women.
- It usually develop in the 50 to 70 years age group.

Bladder cancer are:
- 50 times more common in aniline dye workers, duo to carcinogenic effect of β-naphthylamine.
- It is more common in:
  - Schistosomiasis of the bladder &
  - Chronic cystitis,
  - Cigarette smoking,
  - Certain drugs (e.g., cyclophosphamide) are also believed to induce higher rates of bladder cancer

- The most common genetic abnormalities seen in bladder cancers are mutations, involving several genes, on chromosome 9 (including p16), p53, & FGFR3.
Bladder tumors prognosis depends most importantly on the depth of the invasion of the ca (muscular invasion usually treated by total cystectomy) & on their histological grade.

Except for the clearly benign papillomas, all bladder tumors tend to recur after removal.

Tumors invading ureteral or urethral orifices cause UT obstruction.

Prognosis of low-grade shallow bladder tumors, after removal is generally good, but when...

Deep penetration of the bladder wall muscles has occurred; the prognosis is poor with less than 20% 5-year survival rate

Bladder cancer

**Stage 0a:** This is an early cancer that is only found on the surface of the inner lining of the bladder. Cancer cells are grouped together and can often be easily removed. The cancer has not invaded the muscle or connective tissue of the bladder wall. This type of bladder cancer is also called noninvasive papillary urothelial carcinoma (Ta, N0, M0).

**Stage 0is:** This stage of cancer, also known as a flat tumor or carcinoma in situ (CIS), is found only on the inner lining of the bladder. It has not grown in toward the hollow part of the bladder, and it has not spread to the thick layer of muscle or connective tissue of the bladder (Tis, N0, M0).

This is always a high-grade cancer (see “Grades,” below) and is considered an aggressive disease because it can lead to muscle-invasive disease.

**Stage I:** The cancer has grown through the inner lining of the bladder and into the lamina propria. It has not spread to the thick layer of muscle in the bladder wall or to lymph nodes or other organs (T1, N0, M0).

**Stage II:** The cancer has spread into the thick muscle wall of the bladder. It is also called invasive cancer or muscle-invasive cancer. The tumor has not reached the fatty tissue surrounding the bladder and has not spread to the lymph nodes or other organs (T2, N0, M0).

**Stage III:** The cancer has spread throughout the muscle wall to the fatty layer of tissue surrounding the bladder (perivesical tissue) or to the prostate in a man or the uterus and vagina in a woman. Or, the cancer has spread to the regional lymph nodes.

**Stage IIIA:** The tumor has grown into the perivesical tissue or has spread to the prostate, uterus, or vagina, but has not spread to the lymph nodes or other organs (T3a, T3b, or T4a; N0; M0), or the cancer has spread to a single regional lymph node (T1 to T4a, N1, M0).
**Stage IIIB:** The cancer has spread to 2 or more regional lymph nodes or to the common iliac lymph nodes (T1 to T4a, N2 or N3, M0).

**Stage IV:** The tumor has spread into the pelvic wall or abdominal wall, or the cancer has spread to lymph nodes outside of the pelvis or to other parts of the body.

**Stage IVA:** The tumor has spread to the pelvic wall or the abdominal wall but not to other parts of the body (T4b, any N, M0), or the cancer has spread to lymph nodes located outside of the pelvis (any T, any N, M1a).

**Stage IVB:** The cancer has spread other parts of the body (any T, any N, M1b).