

Research Article

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Etiology of Renal Tubulopathy in Iranian Children-A Nationwide Survey

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Introduction: Inherited and acquired renal tubular disorders including cystic Kidney disease, cystinosis, Bartter's syndrome, Liddle syndrome, Gordon syndrome, nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, and drug-induced tubular injury are the frequent causes of end stage renal disease (ESRD) in children manifesting with chronic kidney disease (CKD). This is a report of the etiology and incidence of tubulopathies in a cohort of Iranian children across the country.

Materials and Methods: This descriptive observational study was conducted from March 2013 to October 2013. A list of tubulopathy disorders was emailed to 70 members of the Iranian Society of Pediatric Nephrology in different provinces of Iran practicing in both university affiliated and non-affiliated hospitals. They were requested to report the number of patients with specific International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes admitted to their hospitals between 2006 and 2013. Data are presented as numbers and percentages.

Results: Of 31 participating centers, 23 completed and returned the spreadsheets. Of the 2940 reported cases, the three most frequent tubulopathies were renal tubular acidosis (RTA) (33%), calcium disorders (27%), and cystic diseases (17%). Considering Tehran and Shiraz as referral centers, RTA and cystinosis were mostly reported from Kerman and Urmia, respectively. Furthermore, idiopathic hypercalciuria, cystinuria, and hyperoxaluria were the most common causes of hereditary kidney stone in 281 children reported from Bandarabas, Tabriz, and Shiraz, respectively

Conclusions: Our findings regarding the high incidence and different etiologies of inherited tubulopathies may provide a basis for designing targeted therapeutic interventions in the future and strategies for gene therapy of these complex disorders.

Keywords: Kidney Tubules; Disease; Acidosis; Renal Tubule; Kidney disease; Cyst; Diabetes Insipidus; Urolithiasis; Bartter syndrome.

Running Title: Renal Tubulopathy in Iranian Children

detected in Iranian children with dRTA are ATP6V1B1 and KEA1 [19-21].

Cystinosis comprised 13% of the causes of RTA and had an estimated incidence of 7.42 PMP of children below 15 years in the present study. The quality of life and the knowledge of physicians and patients have been improving about cystinosis by annually holding cystinosis patient days in Iran [31]. So far, the diagnosis of cystinosis had been based on clinical findings, crystal detection in bone marrow aspiration, or corneal cystine crystal accumulation detected on ophthalmologic exam. Recently, the measurement of cystine in leukocyte and genetic study has been available in some laboratories of Iran. [24, 25, 32]. Shiraz and Tehran are the major tertiary centers for monitoring these patients. Cystinosis is a rare metabolic disorder with renal and extra-renal involvement. A worldwide survey on 213 cystinosis patients from 30 nations by Bertholet-Thomas A *et al.* showed discrepancies in the management of developing and developed countries [33].

Pafery *et al.* conducted an epidemiological study for genetic and clinical presentations of autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive and complex forms of inherited kidney disease in Newfoundland [34]. About 17% of patients in the present study group had **cystic kidney disease**; among them the incidence of **PKD** was 13 PMP of children.

ADPKD comprises 4.4% of the causes of CKD in Iran [35]. Gene studies have been already done for ADPKD in Iranian affected families [8-13]. There is few study about ARPKD in Iran [36].

Cystinuria includes 3% (Gilan, Mazandaran, Khuzestan) to 6% (Qom, Mashahd, Yazd, Tehran) of the causes urolithiasis in Iranian children [37-41]. Its estimated incidence was 5.8 PMP in children less than 15 years old in present survey. Gene studies in Iranian children have shown some new mutations in SLCA31 and SLC7A9 [15-18,42]. Previous studies in Iran showed the majority of tubulointerstitial nephritis was secondary to inherited tubular disorders or glomerulonephritis. Although drug induced TIN (DITIN) is a major concern and comprises 6% of acute kidney injuries in Iranian children [43], there is scare report on it [44]. As in the present survey, TIN including DITIN comprised only 0.6% of total cases. There are some studies in Iranian literatures about tubular dysfunction due to chemotherapy and beta thalassemia but TIN induced by over the counter medications and antibiotics are less considered for study [45-47].

Major concerns for rare inherited diseases are the unknown genetic cause, heterogeneity in presentation, lack of biomarkers, insufficient ontogeny, carrier state, etc [48]. This was a first nationwide survey on tubular disorders in Iran. This information might help to prioritize the local investigation, promote collaboration to unveil the unknown points, to guide to draw schema of knowledge transfer to public, to policy making in health, etc.

This study had some limitations like duplicate hospital admissions and lack of information on age category and gender of the reported cases. We added the genetic studies already done in Iranian families with hereditary tubulopathies as an appendix to Table 1. There is still no published information about genetic analysis of nephrogenic DI, Bartter syndrome, Gitelman syndrome, hyperoxaluria, and calcium and magnesium disorders.

Conclusions

This survey showed renal tubular acidosis, calcium disorders, and renal cystic disease were the most frequently diagnosed tubulopathies in different centers of Iran

Our findings regarding the high incidence and different etiologies of inherited tubulopathies may provide a basis for designing targeted therapeutic interventions in the future and strategies for gene therapy of these complex disorders.

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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None declared.

Table 1. Summaries of the Tubular Disorders in Iran

	Geographical division						Incidence PMP age < 15 yrs old	Gene Study ⁵⁻²⁷
	North	South	West	East	Center	Total		
Cystic Disease, n(%)	85 (16)	107 (21)	73 (14)	31 (6)	208 (41)	504 (17)	28.8	
Nephronophthisis	6	48	21	12	43	130		(NPHPI) ⁵⁻⁶
Polycystic Kidney Disease	23	34	38	16	118	229		NPHPS / (c.1504C > T, p. R502) ⁷ (NPHPS/IQCB1)
Other cystic disease	56	25	14	3	47	145		PKD1 (c.3057 GTG>ATG) ⁸⁻¹¹ (c.2241ACA > GCA) / (c.3710 CAC > AAC) KGB, 16AC2.5 D6S1344, D16S283, KGB /D4S423 D16S521,SM7,Kh8
Amminoaciduria & Glycosuria, n(%)	18 (12)	35 (22)	41 (26)	20 (13)	41 (26)	155 (5)	8.85	PKD2 (c.1094+1G>A) ⁸⁻¹³ c.1142delG AFM224x6 D4S395, D4S1534, D4S423,D4S414
Aminoaciduria	3			12	1	16		
Glycosuria	9	8	11	5	4	37		
Cystinuria	6	27	30	3	36	102		SLC3A1 /rBAT (c.-29A>G) ¹⁵⁻¹⁷ (G105R) M467K /G38G, c. 610 + 169C>T c. 610 + 147C>G
Renal Tubular Disorder of Electrolyte regulation, n(%)	9 (0.03)	54 (20)	24 (0.08)	33 (12)	152 (55.8)	272 (9)	15.5	SLC7A9 (c.272-273 insA) ^{16,18} c.1136+2/3delT
Bartter syndrome	7	34	19	27	44	131		
Gitelman syndrome	2	7	3	1	59	72		
Liddle syndrome		6	1	1	1	9		
GRA				3		3		
Pseudohypoaldosteronism I		4	1		34	39		
Gordon II		3		1	14	18		
Calcium Disorders, n(%)	54	271	62	37	366	790 (27)	45	
Hypocalcemic Hypercalciura Familial			20	7	121	148		
Hypocalcemia -AR				3	123	126		
Hypercalciuria- Idiopathic	54	271	42	27	122	516		
Magnesium Disorders, n(%)	0	11	2	1	7	21(0.7)	1.2	
Hypomagnesemia					7	7		
Hypomagnesemic Hypercalciuria			1	1		2		
Hypomagnesemic-Hypocalcemia		10	1			11		
Hypomagneseemia mitochondrial		1				1		

Renal Tubulopathy in Iranian Children- Hooman N et al

Renal Tubular Acidosis (RTA),n(%)	43	140	130	225	447	979 (33)	55.9	
RTA	19	80	52	106	177	434		ATP6V1B1 ^{19,20} (P385fsX441) (P346R) (KAE1) ²¹
Lowe Syndrome	1	2		1		4		
Idiopathic Fanconi Syndrome	1	6	3	69		79		
Secondary Fanconi Syndrome	9	28	11	20	177	245		
Fanconi bickel			3		32	35		GLUT2 ²²⁻²³ (c.1061_1066del6, p.V355_S356del2) (P.A229QfsX19)
Von Gierke		1	6		1	8		
Cystinosis	2	21	35	12	60	130		CTNS ²⁴⁻²⁵ (c.153-155insCT), (c.923G>A c.18- 21delGACT, c.1017G>A, c.681G>A) (c.969C>A; p. N323K) (c.257- 258delCT; p.S86FfsX37 (c.661insT; p.V221CfsX6 , c.92insG; p.V31GfsX28 c.120delC; p.T40TfsX10
Medullary Sponge Kidney	11	2	10	17		40		
Diabetes Insipidus, n(%)	16	11	12	13	27	79(3)	4.5	
Nephrogenic DI	15	8	9	6	20	58		
Wolfram	1	3	3	7	7	21		(WFS1) ²⁶⁻²⁷ Exon8 "c.2173_2177dupTCTTC" d c.1185 C>T, c.2433 G>A, c.2565 A>G (neutral), c.997 A>G (I332V), c.1762 T>G (W588G), c.1832 G>A (H611R), c.1963 G>A (E655K)
Hyperoxaluria, n(%)	6	12	10	3		31(1)	1.7	
Tubulointerstitial Nephritis (TIN), n(%)	17	29	39	19	9	113(4)	6.4	
Acute TIN	7	17	7	5	8	44		
Chronic TIN	3	6	2	8	1	20		
Drug induced Tubulopathy	7	6	30	6		49		

PMP: Per million populations, GRA: glucocorticoid remediable aldosteronism, DI: Diabetes Insipidus

Renal Tubulopathy in Iranian Children- Hooman N et al



Figure 2. The distribution of each class of tubular disorder reported from different centers of Iran

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