# NEPHRECTOMY. A CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL STUDY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Background: To provide the urologist with the proper histopathological diagnosis of nephrectomy specimens, to correlate the compatibilty of clinical diagnosis and indications of nephrectomy with histopathological results and to see the relative frequency of each type and its specific pathologic characters. The study was conducted at Azadi teaching hospital and in the department of pathology, college of medicine, university of Duhok during a period from (Nov 2012 - Nov 2014). A total 161 nephrectomy specimens were examined grossly. Representative blocks were taken for histopathological examination. 76 patients (47.2%) of the patients were males, (85) 52.8% were females, with male: female ratio of 1:1.08. The mean age was 35.6 years. The histological examinations revealed in descending order 62.65% were inflammatory conditions (including chronic pyelonephritis, xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis and tuberculous pyelonephritis). Adult type malignant conditions were found in 26% of the total cases (including renal cell carcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma). Only one case was lymphoma and other metastatic carcinoma. 9.8 % were cystic lesions of the kidney, 4.96 % were pediatric tumors (including nephroblastoma only), 2.48% was angiomyolipoma. The study concludes a wide range of renal pathology in this locality, histopathological examination for every nephrectomy specimen is the corner stone for a clinico-morphological correlation and proper management. The chronic pyelonephritis is the most and frequent pathologic indication for nephrectomy irrespective of age or sex. Xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis is seen in age below 25 years and was usually associated with nephrolithiasis. Renal cell carcinoma is the most common kidney cancer in adults affects mainly males followed by transitional cell carcinoma and Nephroblastoma which is the main type of malignant tumors of the kidney in children. Secondary in the kidney, SCC and lymphoma are rare tumors.

KEYWORDS: Nephrectomy, Renal tumor, clinicopathological study

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pephrectomy is a surgical removal of kidney in patients with an advanced kidney damage due to different renal diseases, injuries, or congenital conditions (Table 1). These diseases include serious kidney infections and inflammations like pyelonephritis and glomerulonephritis, malignant and benign tumors of the kidney (e.g. renal cell carcinoma), polycystic kidney disease and also used to remove a healthy kidney from a donor for renal transplantation (Beisland et al. 2000, Schiff et al. 1997)

The procedure of nephrectomy includes many types; partial, simple and radical nephrectomy and these three types of kidney resection done either by open surgery or through laparoscopic technique. Partial nephrectomy involve removing

a small portion of the kidney, simple nephrectomy performed for living donor transplant purposes which is require removal of the kidney and a section of the attached ureter, while the radical nephrectomy means removing the entire kidney including adrenal gland and the fatty tissue surrounding the kidney (Adamson et al. 1992, Wassim et al. 2009)

In a traditional open surgical nephrectomy, the procedure is done under general anesthesia and a 6–10 inch (15.2–25.4 cm) incision and separating several layers of abdominal wall muscle. This is made on the side or front of the abdominal wall. The blood vessels supplying the kidney are clamped and cut, and the ureter is also cut between the bladder and kidney and clamped (Ljungberg et al. 2010).

Another technique for kidney removal which is

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widely spread, through laparoscopy, is a form of less invasive surgery that utilizes instruments on long, narrow rods to view, cut, and remove the kidney. The surgeon views the kidnev surrounding tissue videoscope. with The videoscope and surgical instruments maneuvered through four small incisions in the abdomen, and carbon dioxide is pumped into the abdominal cavity to inflate it and improve visualization of the kidney. Once the kidney is isolated, it is secured in a bag and pulled through,

approximately 3 inch (7.6 cm) wide, in the front of the abdominal wall. Although this surgical technique takes slightly longer than a traditional nephrectomy, preliminary studies have shown that it promotes a faster recovery time, shorter hospital stays, and less post-operative pain with the same outcome, especially the excision of renal tumor,

sparing the healthy part of the kidney (Eskicorapci et al. 2007, Narmada et al 2005).

With the advance of technology like CT scanning, MRI and ultrasound imaging in recent years, used for various abdominal pathologies, including kidney diseases, especially the early detection of renal tumors and other dieases. It gives high proportion of preoperative diagnosis, but histopathological study still remain the gold standard for definite diagnosis (Kitamura et al. 2004, Minervini et al. 2012). To provide the urologist with the proper histopathological diagnosis of nephrectomy specimens, to correlate the compatibilty of clinical diagnosis and indications of nephrectomy with histopathological results and to see the relative frequency of each type and its specific pathologic characters; this study done. was

**Table (1):** Variants of renal pathology

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- Congenital diseases of the kidney
  - Cystic disease of the kidney
- Inflammatory conditions
- Obstructive uropathy
- Benign renal tumors
- Malignant renal tumors

#### 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A prospective study of 161 nephrectomy specimens The study was conducted at Azadi teaching hospital and in the department of pathology, college of medicine, university of Duhok during a period from (Nov 2012 - Nov 2014), provide the surgeon histopathological diagnosis of nephrectomy cases, to correlate the clinical findings and indications with histopathological results and the relative frequency of each type and its specific pathologic characters. The nephrectomy specimens were examined grossly. Representative blocks were taken for histopathological examination. The nephrectomy specimens (partial or radical) were included in this study at one academic center. The clinicopathologic features of these cases were reviewed and categorized to identify risk factors of multifocality including age, gender, size and side of the tumor, vascular invasion, Fuhrman's grade, and the clinical and pathological stages.

The patients, for whom the nephrectomies were performed, included 74 males and 87 females. Their age range from 5 months to 80 years. The specimen, when received, was fixed in 10% formalin, inspected and described grossly, weighed, measured and sliced. Each specimen was sampled by 2-4 blocks selected in accordance with process pathologic that necessitated nephrectomy. The selected blocks then processed through, ascending concentration of alcohol, cleared by xylene, embedded in paraffin and cut at 4u thickness. Sections from each block were stained conventionally by Hematoxylin and Eosin stain and examined. Immunostain were done whenever it indicated.

# 3. RESULTS

Out of the total number of cases; 76 percent (47.2) of the patients were males, (85) 52.8% were females, with male: female ratio of 1:1.08. Their ages ranged from 5 months to 80 years with mean

age was 35.6 years (Table 2) summarizes the different pathological conditions of the specimens received and the patients sex distribution. On histopathological examination, in descending order 62.65% were inflammatory conditions (including chronic pyelonephritis, xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis and tuberculous pyelonephritis), Adult type malignant conditions found in 21.1% (including renal cell

carcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma), 9.8 % were cystic lesions of the kidney, 4.96 % were pediatric tumors (including nephroblastoma only), 2.48% was angiomyolipoma. One case was lymphoma and other metastatic carcinoma.

The main clinical features and indications that the patients presented for nephrectomy, with their concodence between inication and patholoical findings are shown in (Table 3).

Table (2): Renal pathology with sex distribution according to their frequency

Renal pathology	No. of patients (%)	Male	Female	M : F ratio
Inflammatory conditions				
Chronic pyelonephritis	77 (47.82)	27	50	1:1.5
Xanthogranulomatous PN	13 (8)	5	8	1:1.6
Rejection	10 (6.21)	6	4	1.5:1
Tuberculous PN	1 (0.62)	1	-	-
Adult malignant renal tumors				
Renal cell carcinoma.	26 (16.14)	16	10	1.6:1
Transitional cell carcinoma	5 (3.10)	5	0	-
Rhabdoid tumor	2 (5.5)	2	0	-
SCC	1 (0.62)	1	0	-
lymphoma.	1 (0.62)	1	0	-
Metastatic	1 (0.62)	1	0	-
Pediatric renal tumors				
Nephroblastoma	8 (4.96)	3	5	1:1.6
Mesoblastic nephroma.	<del>-</del>	-	-	-
Clear cell sarcoma.	<u>-</u>	-	-	-
Cystic condition				
Dysplastic kidney	6 (3.72)	4	2	2:1
Simple cyst.	-	-	-	-
Polycystic kidney disease	4 (2.48)	2	2	1:1
Benign tumors				
adenoma	1 (0.62)	1	0	-
multicystic nephroma	1 (0.62)	0	1	
Angiomyolipoma	4 (2.48)	11	3	1:3
Total	161(100)	76 (47.2%)	85 (52.8%)	1:1.1

**Table (3):** the correlation between clinical indication & diagnosis with pathological findings

Clinical indication & diagnosis	Number :	and percentage	Number and percentage of cases confirmed the clinical indication and diagnosis by histopathology	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Non functioning kidney	95	59	91	95.7
Renal mass	38	23.6	28	73.6
Flank pain	13	8	8	61.6
Recurrent UTI	11	6.9	10	90.9
Hematurea	4	2.5	4	100
Total	161	100	141	87.5

Nephroblastoma (Wilm's tumor) was the most common pediatric solid renal tumor; 8 cases (18.1%) were diagnosed (Table 4).

**Table (4):** Types of malignant tumor of kidney

Types	No.	%
Renal cell carcinoma	26	59.10
Wilm's tumor	8	18.18
Transitional cell carcinoma	5	11.36
Rhabdoid tumor	2	4.50
Squamous cell carcinoma	1	2.27
Lymphoma	1	2.27
Metastatic tumors	1	2.27
Total	44	100%

#### 4- DISCUSSION

The kidney like other organs is liable to different diseases which vary from congenital diseases, inflammatory and neoplastic lesion. In the present study, out of the 161 Nephrectomy specimens studied, majority of the cases (72.6%) were non neoplastic and benign lesions, while (27.3%) were malignant lesions. A similar predominance of benign lesions was observed in other studies (Table 5).

Table (5): The incidence of non neoplastic, benign and malignant lesions comparing with other studies

Study	Non neoplastic and benign tumors %	Malignant tumors %	
Ghalayini (2002)	70.44	29.5	
Rafique (2007)	76.6	23.4	
Rehan et al	11	89	
Aiman (2013)	77.2	22.8	
Present study	72.6	27.3	

Among nephrectomy specimens, 52.8% were of females and 47.2% of males, with M:F = 1: 1.1, this ratio is in concordance with the M:F ratio of 1:1.05 observed by Mohammad Rafique  $^{(12)}$  and Aiman A  $^{(13)}$ ·However, El Malik et al  $^{(14)}$  reported 61% nephrectomy specimens in males and 39% in females with M:F = 1.9:1.

The main clinical features and indications that the patients presented for nephrectomy was non functioning kidney (95 patients), renal mass (38 patients), flank pain (13 patients). This was followed by hematuria (11 patients), four of patients who presented with hematuria had malignant lesions (Table 4). These observations were incomparable to those in the study conducted by El Malik et al.(1997) and Popat et al (2010). These studies showed that the main presentation was flank pain.

The most common pathological findings for nephrectomy was chronic pyelonephritis (47.8%), followed by renal cell carcinoma (16.1%).

Chronic pyelonephritis has been reported as the most common clinical indication in the studies by El Malik et al (1997), Popat et al (2010). Thirteen xanthogranulomatous cases (8%)were pyelonephritis. El Malik et al (1997) found (1.1%), Popat et al (2010) observed (2.5%) and Korkes (2008)found 19.2% cases of xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis in nephrectomy specimens. Among the cases of xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis in the present study, 5 (38.46%) were male and 8 (61.54%) female. Thus, a female predilection was noted. A similar female predilection was observed by Korkes (2008) and KB Koh (1993) A majority of patients, i.e., 10 cases (77%), belonged to the age group below 30 years.

Tuberculosis in this locality (Kurdistan region and other Iraqi region) considered an endemic disease and was found in 1 case (0.62% of cases). Ziehl — Neelsen stain was performed, but unfortunately, it was negative, but the presence of epithelioid and caseating granulomata are typical

of tuberculosis can be considered as an acceptable criteria for tuberculous diagnosis in our locality, which is unlike the situation in non-endemic areas where the identification of the microorganism is mandatory for the diagnosis (Venkata et al. 2007, Muldoon et al. 1999).

In the present study, a total of 36 (27.3%) malignant lesions were observed; of these, renal cell carcinomas seen in 26 cases (59.1%) (Table 5). This was similar to the findings by Amin (2002) who observed that the majority of malignant neoplasms (70%) of the kidney were

renal cell carcinomas.

The majority of renal cell carcinoma cases (61.5%) were seen in males and less 38.5% in females. Regarding the microscopical subtypes, the clear cell type of renal cell carcinomas was the main subtype, including 17 (65.38%) cases. This type was followed by papillary type; 4 cases (15.38%) (Table 6). Table 7 shows histological subtypes of renal cell carcinoma in comparing to others, clear cell carcinomas were more frequent in this study.

Table (6): Microscopical subtypes of renal cell carcinoma

Subtypes Of Renal Cell Carcinoma	No.	%
Clear cell type	17	65.38
Papillary type	4	15.38
Chromophobe type	4	15.38
Sarcomatoid type	1	3.84
Total	26	100%

In the present study, one case of squamous cell carcinoma was detected in a patient aged 30 years. Other studies showed primary squamous cell carcinoma of the kidney a very rare entity, comprising 0.5-0.8% among malignant renal tumors and usually occur in cases of longstanding renal stone (Li et al. 1987 and Blacher et al. 1985).

Nephroblastoma (Wilm's tumor) was the most common pediatric solid renal tumor; 8 cases (18.1%) were diagnosed (Table 5) with mean age at diagnosis of 2.3 years and it is comparable to other study in which the mean age was 3.25 year (Breslow et al. 1993). It was more common in girls with M:F ratio of 1:1.6, in contrast to other

study in which M:F ratio was 1.3:1 (Yildiz et al. 2000)

Table 2 shows that benign tumors of the kidney were less than malignant. Many studies revealed the same results and the benign tumors are more common in postmortem examination and as an incidental finding in imaging study during life. The most common type among benign tumors of the kidney is angiomyolipoma and is of interest because it may be misdiagnosed as cancer by imaging study prenephrectomy (Israel et al.2005, Pillay et al. 2003). Four cases (2.48%) of angiomyolipoma were seen in this study.

Table (7): Histological subtypes of renal cell carcinoma in comparing to others

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Subtypes of renal cell carcinoma	Baltaci et al (2000)	Kitamura et al (2004)	Current study
Clear cell type	75.7%	87.6%	65.38%
Papillary cell type	14.5%	4.8%	15.38%
Chromophobe cell type	4.9%	1.9%	15.38%
Sarcomatoid cell type	4.9%	1.9%	3.84%

### 5. CONCLUSION

The present study provide wide range of renal pathology in this locality, histopathological examination for every nephrectomy specimen is the corner stone for a clinico-morphological correlation and proper management. Chronic

pyelonephritis was the most frequent pathologic indication for nephrectomy irrespective of age or sex and xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis was not uncommon especially in younger peoples. Renal cell carcinoma was the most common kidney cancer in adults affects mainly males followed by transitional cell carcinoma.

Nephroblastoma was the main type of malignant tumors of the kidney in children. Secondary in the kidney, SCC and lymphoma are rare renal tumors.

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### يۆ ختە

پاشینه: ئەق قەكۆلىنە دى ھرمارەكا پشكنىنىن ھىستوپاتولورى بىن گونجاى بىن نموونەبىن راكرنا گولچىسكى ر بۆ نوشدارىن بسپور د بوارى نەخوشىىن بوربىن مىزى دا دابىن كەت. ر بۆ پىكغە گرىدانا ھەقگونجاندنا پشكنىنىن كلىنىكى و ئامارەيىن راكرنا گولچىسكى دگەل ئەنجامىن ھىستوپاتولورى، ھەردىسان ر بۆ دىتنا بەربەلاقبوونا رىرەكى يا ھەر جورەكى و ساخلەتىن وى يىن پاتولورى يىن تاببەت. ئەڭ قەكۆلىنە ل نەخوشخانەيا ئازادى يا فىركارى و زانكۆيا دھۆك\ فەكولتىا زانستىن پرىشكى، پشكا پاتولورى د ماوەيى دناقبەرا (كانوونا ئىكى 2012 ھەتا چريا دووى 2014) ھاتيە ئەنجامدان.

سەرجەمىٰ 161 نمونەيىن راكرنا گولچىسكان ب شىوەيەكىٰ ئاشكەرايى ھاتنە پشكنىن. پارچەيىن جىگىر و نموونەيى ژ بۇ بېركىن ئاشكەرايى ھاتنە پشكنىنىن پاتولوژى ھاتنە وەرگرتن. ژ سەرجەمىٰ گشت نەخوشان، 76 (47.2%) كەس ژ رەگەزىٰ نىر بوون و 85 (52.8%) ژ رەگەزىٰ مىن بوون. رىزەيا نىر بۆ مىيان ب قى رەنگى بوو 1.08:1 بوو. تىكرايىٰ ژىىٰ نەخوشان 35.6 سال بوون.

پشکنینێن هێستولوژی "ژ سهری بهرهڤ خوارێ" ئاشکهرا کر کو (62.65%) حالهنێن ههودانێ بوون (پێکدهاتن ژ ههودانێن گولچیسکێ یێن دومدرێژ، ههودانێن گولچیسکێ ژ جورێ زانتوگرانولوماتوس، ههودانێن نیفرونێن گولچیسکێ یێن تیوبهرکلوزسی.

حالهنتن پهنجهشنری بین ژ جوری پیگههشتی ل ده (26%) ژ سهرجهمی گشت حالهتان هاننه دیتن کو پیکدهاتن ژ (پهنجهشیّرا خانهییّن گولچیسکی و پهنجهشیّرا خانهییّن قهگوهیّزهر.) ب تنی یه حالهت یی پیکدهاتن ژ (پهنجهشیّرا قهریّزیّن لیمفاوی و جوریّن دی بین پهنجهشیّری بین میتاستایتیکی بوو. (9.8%) ژ جوری برینیّن کیسکی بین گولچیسکی بوون و (4.96%) ژی وهرهمیّن زاروّکان بوون (پیکدهاتن ژ وهرهمیّن گولچیسکی ب تنی و (2.48%) ژی ژ جوری نهنگیومیولییوما بوون.

ئەق قەكۆلىنە شيا كومەكا بەرفەرھ يا نەخوشىين گولچىسكان ل دەقەرى دەستىيشان بكەت. ھەروەسا دىاركر كو پشكنىنىن ھىستوپاتولورى ر بۆ ھەر نموونەيەكا راكرنا گولچىسكى بەرى بناغەيى يە ر بۆ يىڭكقەگرىدانا نىشانىن كلىنىكى و مورفولورى دگەل خۆپاراستن و رىقەبەريەكا گونجاى. ھەودانا نىفرونىن گولچىسكى يىن دومدرىر بەربەلاقترىن ئامارەيىن پاتولورى نە و پتر د بەربەلاقن ل دەق كەسىن گولچىسكى يىن دومدرىر بەربەلاقترىن بىلەرچاق وەرگرتنا رى و رەگەزى وان. ھەودانىن گولچىسكى رەچورى زانتوگرانولوماتوس ل دەق وان كەسان ھاتە دىتن يىن رىى وان د بن 25 سالىي دا و بەركىن گولچىسكى بوو گولچىسكى بودى كەسىن ھەين. پەنجەشىرا خانەيىن گولچىسكى رى بەربەلاقترىن جورى پەنجەشىرا گولچىسكى بود لىدىق كەسىن يىن دى يەنجەشىرا خانەيىن لىدى كەسىن لىدى كەسىن يەنجەشىرا خانەيىن كولچىسكى دى بەربەلاقترىن دورى يەنجەشىرا خانەيىن كىلىدى دا دى يەنجەشىرا خانەيىن

قەگوھێزەر و وەرەمێن گولچىسكێ دھات كو ئەڤا دوماھىێ جورێ سەرەكى يێ وەرەما پىس يا گولچىسكێ بوو ل دەڤ زارۆكان و يا دووێ بوو د گولچىسكێ دا، جورێ SCC و پەنجەشێرا ڤەرێژێن لىمفاوى گەلەك د كێم بوون.

## الخلاصة

مقدمة: لتزويد اختصاصي المسالك البولية بالتشخيص النسيجي السليم بعد استئصال عينات الكلية، ولمطابقة التشخيص السريري ودواعي استئصال مع النتائج المرضية في الفحص النسيجي. ومعرفة التواتر النسبي لكل نوع وصفاتها النسيجية قدمت هذه الدراسة. وقد أجريت الدراسة في مستشفي آزادي التعليمي وفي قسم علم الأمراض، كلية الطب، جامعة دهوك خلال فترة من (نوفمبر 2012 – 2014 نوفمبر). وتم فحص عينات استئصال الكلية لمجموع 161نموذج. والتي تم فحصها عينيا ومن ثم الدراسة نسيجية. 76 في المئة (47.2) من المرضى هم من الذكور، (85) 52.8 في المائة من الإناث، كانت نسبة الذكور: الإناث من 1:1.8. وكان متوسط العمر 35.6 سنة. الفحص النسيجي كشف في ترتيب تنازلي 62.65% حالات التهابات (بما في ذلك التهاب الحويضه والكلية المزمن، و xanthogranulomatous والتهاب الكلية التدرني). نوع الأمراض الخبيثة للكبار وجدت في 26 في المائة من مجموع الحالات (بما في ذلك سرطان الخلايا الكلوية وسرطان الخلايا المبطنة لقناة البول). حالة واحدة فقط كان من سرطان الغدد الليمفاوية والسرطان المنتشر. 9.8 في المائة من آفات كيسية ، 4.96 في المائة من الأورام الكلية في الأطفال (بما في ذلك نيفر وبلا ستوما)، 2.48 في المائة angiomyolipoma. وتخلص الدر اسة إلى مجموعة واسعة من الأمراض الكلوية في مناطقنا (كردستان)، وتعتبر الدراسة النسيجية لكل عينة استئصال هو حجر الزاوية لربط الخصائص المور فولوجية مع السريرية وتقديم العلاج الجيد. والتهاب الكلية المزمن تشكل معظم الحالات معظم ودواعي الاستئصال بغض النظر عن العمر أو الجنس. التهاب الحويضه والكلية. Xanthogranulomatous شائعة في سن أقل من 25 سنة وكان المقترنة عادة مع حصاة الكلية. سرطان الخلايا الكلوية هو السرطان الأكثر شيوعاً في البالغين يؤثر أساسا الذكور يليه سرطان الخلايا المبطنة لقناة البول. ونيفر وبلاستوما وهو النوع الرئيسي للأورام الخبيثة للكلي في الأطفال. السرطان المنتشر الثانوي وسرطان الخلايا القشرية والأورام اللمفاوية أورام نادرة