

Management of urolithiasis

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Introduction



- Nephrolithiasis is a common disease entity around the world, with an increasing prevalence and incidence
- patients with kidney stones are more likely to experience many complications, including cardiovascular and CKD , UTI , and fractures

Introduction



- The need for medication is determined by the results of 24-h urine analysis and the risk level of the patient
- The metabolic workup should be individualized according to the stone type and the severity of the disease

Introduction



- High fluid intake, reduced soft drink intake, low animal protein diet, normal levels of calcium, low salt reduce numbers of stone recurrences
- The DASH-style diet that is high in fruits and vegetables, moderate in low-fat dairy products, low in animal proteins and salt is associated with a marked decrease in risk of incident stone formation

Diagnostic evaluation



- Standard evaluation includes a detailed **medical history and physical examination**
- Patients with ureteral stones usually present with pain, vomiting, and sometimes fever, but may also be asymptomatic
- Immediate evaluation is indicated in patients with **solitary kidney, fever**

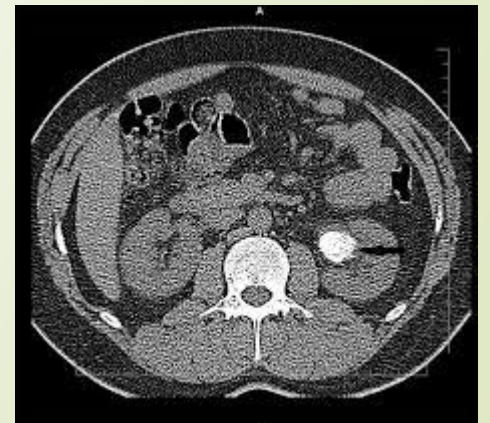
Acute flank pain/suspected ureteral stones

- Ultrasound (US) should be used as the **primary diagnostic imaging** tool, although pain relief, or any other emergency measures, should not be delayed by imaging assessments
- Ultrasound is safe (no risk of radiation), reproducible and inexpensive
- It can identify stones located in the **calyces, pelvis, and pyeloureteric and vesico-ureteral** junctions



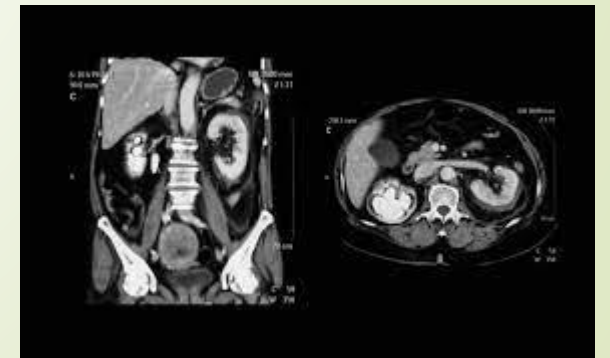
Evaluation of patients with acute flank pain/suspected ureteral stones

- ▶ CT has become the standard for diagnosing acute flank pain and has replaced IVU
- ▶ Non-contrast-enhanced CT can detect **uric acid and xanthine stones**, which are radiolucent on plain films, but not **indinavir** stones
- ▶ NCCT can determine **stone density, inner structure of the stone, skin-to-stone distance, and surrounding anatomy**; all of which affect selection of **treatment modality**







Diagnostic imaging during pregnancy

- ▶ In pregnant women radiation exposure may cause teratogenesis effects.
- ▶ Ultrasound become the primary radiological diagnostic tool when evaluating pregnant patients suspected of renal colic
- ▶ MRI can be used, as a second-line option , to define the level of urinary tract obstruction
- ▶ The use of gadolinium is not routinely recommended in pregnancy to avoid toxic effects to the embryo



Analysis of stone composition

Morphological subtype	Main composition	Stone morphology	Common etiology
Type IIIa	Uric acid anhydrous		Low urine pH, stable prostate by prostatic, metabolic syndrome, antihypertensive deficit
Type IIIb	Uric acid anhydrous anion dihydrate		Uric acid stones, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, antihypertensive deficit, low urine pH
Type IIIc	Ammonium hydrogen anion other anion		Hypocitraturia, neutral or alkaline urine pH, urinary tract infection by urea-splitting bacteria, Look for the cation associated with anion
Type IIId	Ammonium hydrogen anion		Chronic diarrhea, obesity and diet, low, high urate concentration in urine, low phosphate intake, Insulin abuse

- Stone analysis should be performed in all first-time stone formers.
- **Repeat stone analysis is needed in the case of:**
 - Recurrence under pharmacological prevention
 - Early recurrence after interventional therapy with complete stone clearance
 - Late recurrence after a prolonged stone-free period

Disease Management

- ▶ The treatment of urolithiasis is based on many parameters and is **individualised** for each patient
- ▶ Parameters such as the **size, number, location, and constitution** of the stones are cornerstones for deciding the treatment

Renal colic

Pain relief

- NSAIDs and paracetamol are effective in patients with acute stone colic , and have better analgesic efficacy than opioids
 - Although diclofenac can affect renal function in patients with already reduced function, it has no functional effect in patients with normal renal function
- Opioids



Management of sepsis and/or anuria in obstructed kidney

- ▶ The obstructed kidney with all signs of UTI and/or anuria is a urological emergency.
- ▶ Urgent decompression is often necessary to prevent further complications in **infected hydronephrosis secondary to stone-induced, unilateral or bilateral, renal obstruction**

General considerations for recurrence prevention

Table 4.5: General preventive measures

Fluid intake (drinking advice)	Fluid amount: 2.5-3.0 L/day
	Fluid amount: 2.5-3.0 L/day
	Water is the preferred fluid
	Diuresis: 2.0-2.5 L/day
	Specific weight of urine: < 1,010 g/day

General considerations for recurrence prevention

**Kidney Stones:
What to Eat &
What Not?**



Nutritional advice for a balanced diet

Balanced diet*

Rich in vegetables and fibre

Normal calcium content: 1-1.2 g/day

Limited NaCl content: 4-5 g/day

Limited animal protein content: 0.8-1.0 g/kg/day

Lifestyle advice to normalise general risk factors

BMI: Retain a normal BMI level

Adequate physical activity

Balancing of excessive fluid loss

Reduce the intake of alcohol containing fluids

Reduce the intake of sodas and calorie-containing fluids

Medical expulsive therapy

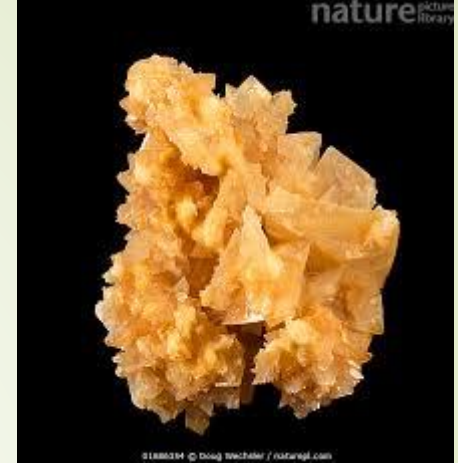
- Several drug classes including **α-blockers, calcium channel inhibitors and phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors (PDEI-5)** are used for MET
- The panel concludes that MET using α-blockers seems efficacious in the treatment of patients with distal ureteral stones > 5 mm

Calcium oxalate stones



- ▶ Calcium oxalate (CaOx) is the **most prevalent type** of kidney stones.
- ▶ Calcium containing stones may exist in the form of pure calcium oxalate (50%) or calcium phosphate (5%) or a mixture of both (45%)
- ▶ **Urinary risk factors** for calcium stone formation include
 - ▶ hypercalciuria
 - ▶ hypocitraturia
 - ▶ hyperoxaluria
 - ▶ combination

Hypercalciuria



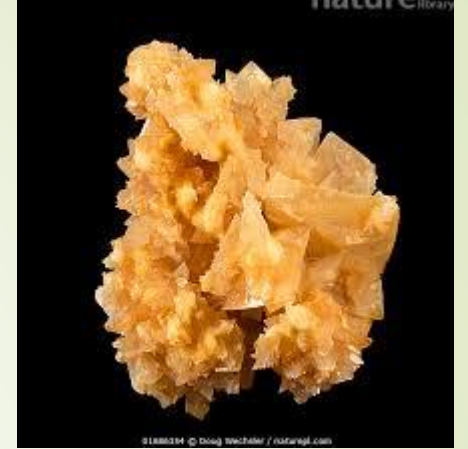
- Dietary measures such as a **low-sodium, low-animal-protein diet** is beneficial in reducing hypercalciuria.
- The only medical therapy directed at reducing urinary calcium is the usage of thiazide diuretics.
- Thiazide prescription is associated with decreased urinary citrate, this is caused by thiazide-induced hypokalemia, which would stimulate citrate reabsorption in the proximal tubules

Hypercalciuria



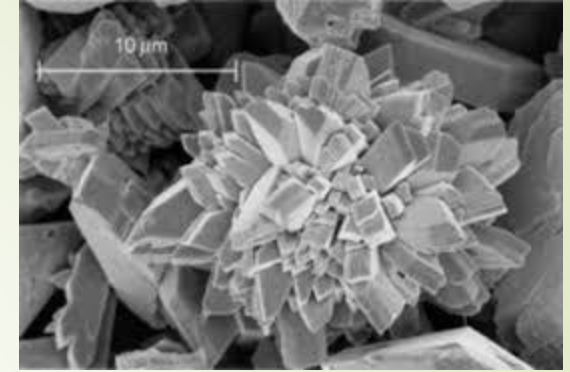
- Restriction of dietary calcium intake is recommended only when hypercalciuria is due to excessive intestinal calcium absorption, such as with uncontrolled sarcoidosis
- Dietary calcium intake should be maintained at 1,000-1,200 mg/day because restriction can exacerbate bone mineral loss and cause hyperoxaluria due to enhanced intestinal oxalate absorption

Hypercalciuria



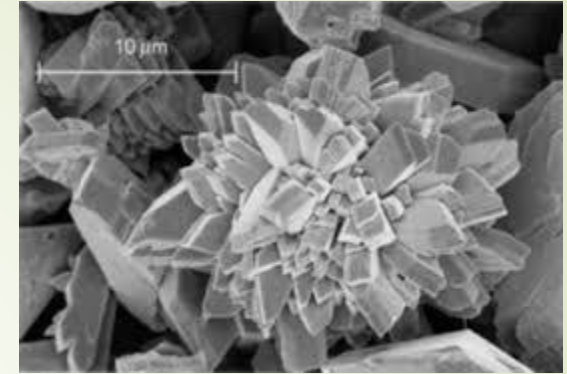
- Moderate restriction of animal-derived protein can be considered.
- Bisphosphonates have been suggested because they reduce urine calcium in some cases and treat associated osteoporosis

Hypocitraturia



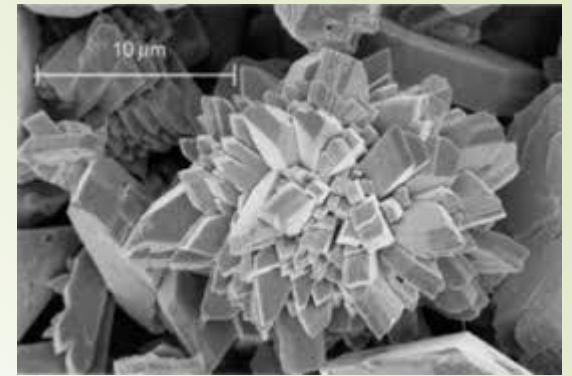
- ▶ Citrate supplements are available as sodium and potassium salts, but **potassium** is the preferred citrate compound because the **sodium salt can increase urinary calcium excretion**

Hypocitraturia



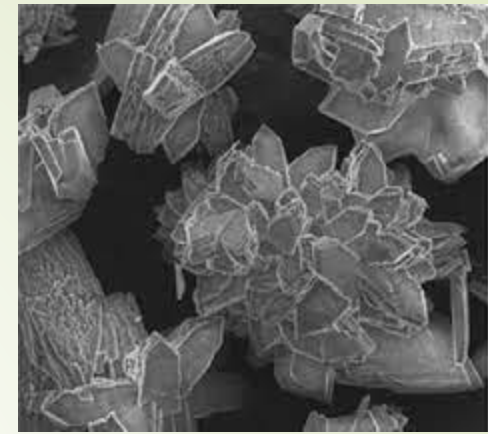
- ▶ Potassium citrate is available in 3 preparations as **tablets, crystals for oral solution, and oral solution.**
- ▶ Typical doses of potassium citrate for adults with idiopathic hypocitraturia and normal renal function range from **40 to 60 mEq per day**
- ▶ Serum potassium needs to be monitored closely for hyperkalemia among patients with reduced kidney function

Hypocitraturia



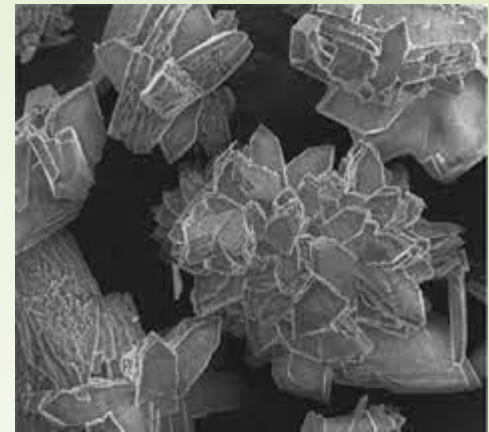
- ▶ Potassium citrate is commonly used in combination with a thiazide diuretic in the medical management of **recurrent hypercalciuric nephrolithiasis**
- ▶ Combining thiazide diuretics with potassium citrate or potassium chloride **prevents hypokalemia and hypochloremic metabolic alkalosis**

Hyperoxaluria



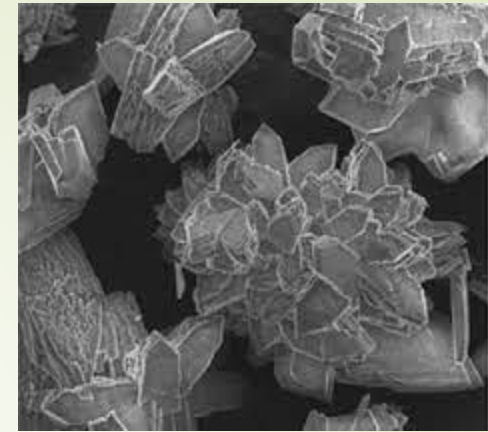
- A large daily fluid intake is important in all types of PH
- In PH1, it is recommended to have a high fluid intake of at least 3 L/m² per 24 h.
- Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) should be used in any patients with proven PH1, starting at a dose of 5 mg/kg per day and not exceeding 20 mg/kg per day.
- Oral potassium citrate at a dose of 0.10–0.15 g/kg per day

Hyperoxaluria



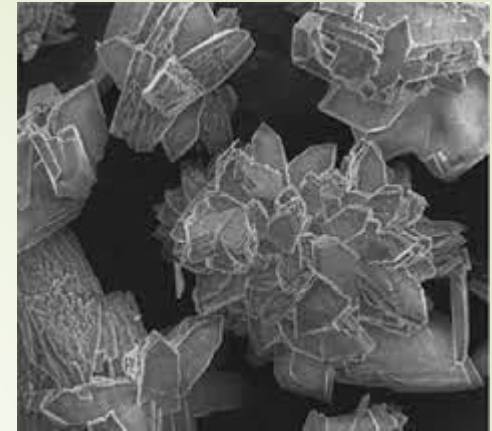
- Increasing urine volume in individuals with chronic diarrhea can be very challenging.
- Restriction of dietary oxalate to <100 mg/day
- Excessive intake of vitamin C should be avoided.
- Calcium carbonate or citrate given with meals reduces oxalate absorption.

Hyperoxaluria



- Isolated liver transplantation can correct the metabolic defect before significant renal damage occurring
- combined hepato-renal transplantation is required once end stage renal disease has occurred

Hyperoxaluria



- In SH, the most important strategy is increasing fluid intake in order to increase the urine output to more than **2–3 L per day**.
- **Orally calcium supplements with the meals** to promote binding of dietary oxalate and decreased its intestinal absorption
- **Cholestyramine** uses a bile acid sequestrant to reduce oxalate hyperabsorption in the presence of enteric hyperoxaluria

Calcium phosphate stones



- **Discontinuation** of offending medications that increase **urine pH** is critical
- **Increasing urine volume** and lowering the urine calcium excretion rate by **sodium restriction and thiazides** are reasonable initial interventions to decrease supersaturation to the goal of <1 .

Calcium phosphate stone



- ▶ Potassium citrate should be used cautiously because it raises urine pH, potentially worsening calcium phosphate supersaturation
- ▶ Citrate should be assessed after starting therapy; if citrate does not rise, the medication should be stopped

Hyperuricosuria



- The results showed that febuxostat (80 mg) once daily lowered 24-hour urinary uric acid excretion significantly more than allopurinol (300 mg) in **recurrent stone formers with higher urinary uric acid excretion**.
- Despite the greater reduction in 24-hour urinary uric acid level when compared to allopurinol, there was **no change in stone size or number at six months**

Uric acid stone



- ▶ Treat chronic diarrhea if it is present and advise a lower animal protein intake.
- ▶ Alkali therapy to maintain a 24-h urine pH between 6.0 and 6.5 is effective at reducing stone recurrence.
- ▶ Oral potassium citrate is usually administered with an adult dosage of 15–30 mEq twice daily.

Uric acid stone



- Potassium salts are a better choice than sodium salts
- **Sodium bicarbonate** may substitute potassium citrate if the gastrointestinal side effects of potassium citrate are intolerable.
- The normal adult prescription of **sodium bicarbonate** is normally **650–1000 mg three or four times a day**
- **Acetazolamide** is effective in increasing the urinary pH in patients with uric acid who were **not responsive to potassium citrate** therapy

Uric acid stone



- ▶ Uric acid stone formers should rarely be treated with xanthine oxidase inhibitors like allopurinol unless **clinical gout** is present, or **hyperuricosuria is severe**
- ▶ They are always indicated in patients with hyperuricosuria :
 - myeloproliferative disorders
 - hemolytic anemia
 - tumor lysis syndrome

Uric acid stone



- The usual dose range of allopurinol for adults is 100 to 300 mg/d
- In the patient with renal insufficiency, the dose should be adjusted to creatinine clearance
- Adverse reactions include gastrointestinal upset, precipitating acute gout attacks, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and hypersensitivity syndrome

Cystine stone



- ▶ For cystine stone formers, cystinuria is a chronic condition, with no definitive treatment; it is diagnosed in **early age** and can lead to kidney failure if it is not appropriately treated.
- ▶ Initial management is through conservative means such as
 - ▶ **decreased intake of methionine containing foods**
 - ▶ **urinary alkalization up to pH 7.5**
 - ▶ **increased fluid intake.**

Cystine Stones



- ▶ Urinary pH has a crucial role in the prevention of stone formation
- ▶ The solubility of cystine is enhanced when the urine pH is maintained between 7.0 and 7.5
- ▶ Although protein restriction may assist in achieving this, **potassium citrate or sodium bicarbonate therapy is typically necessary**

Cystine stone



- Hydration is the first step in the medical management by increasing fluid intake sufficiently to **produce 2–3 L/day of urine**.
- Patients should drink 240 mL of water every hour during the day and 480 mL before bed and at least once during the night.
- They should monitor the specific gravity of their urine using reagent strips, with a goal of achieving a value **less than 1.010**

Cystine Stones



- ▶ Treatment of cystinuria is aimed at decreasing the **urinary cystine concentration to < 250 mg/L** by
 - increasing urine volume,
 - restricting dietary sodium,
 - reducing methionine and cystine intake through dietary restriction of animal protein

Cystine stone



- D-penicillamine, α -mercaptopropionyl glycine (tiopronin).
- These drugs have the ability to dissociate the cystine molecule into disulfide moieties with much higher solubility
- **Tiopronin dose starting at 800 mg/day divided into two or three times daily**
- The dosage should be readjusted depending on the urinary cystine value to achieve a urine cystine concentration of **less than 250 mg/L**

Cystine stone



- ▶ **Captopril** can be used for cystinuria, it form captopril-cysteine disulfide complex which is 200 times more soluble than cystine
- ▶ long-term captopril therapy may be useful in the treatment of cystinuria with **150 mg or 75 mg dose per day**

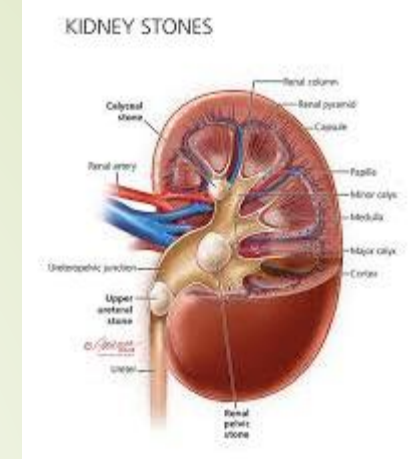
Struvite stone



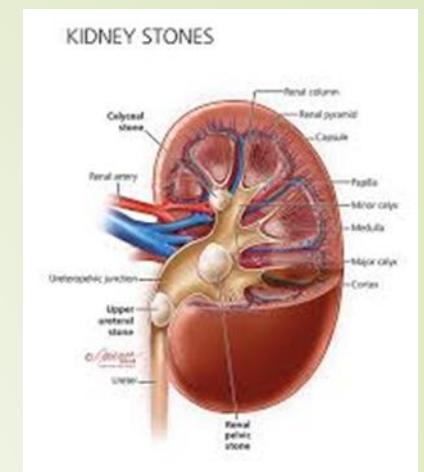
- ▶ The three key principles of treating struvite stones are
 - removal of all stone fragments,
 - the use of antibiotics to treat the infection,
 - prevention of its recurrence
- ▶ When selecting antibiotics to treat infection, it is necessary to acquire a stone culture or urine culture from the renal pelvis
- ▶ Acidification of the urine to **less than pH 6.5** can greatly increase the solubility of this type of infection stone

Take home message

- ▶ All stone formers, independent of their risk, should follow the preventive measures such as **increasing their fluid intake, eating a balanced diet rich in fruit and vegetables and reduced their salt intake.**
- ▶ The fluid amount should be 2.5–3.0 L/day to obtain a diuresis of 2.0–2.5 L/day.
- ▶ Medical management of recurrent stone formers should be based on the process of correcting the specific abnormalities of the 24-hour urine collection



Take home message



- A follow-up 24-h urine study is important after the initiation of preventive therapy; it is recommended within 8–12 weeks of treatment.
- It is also advised to perform a repeat 24-h urine evaluation every 12 months, once therapy is stabilized.

REVIEW



Established and recent developments in the pharmacological management of urolithiasis: an overview of the current treatment armamentarium

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EAU Guidelines on **Urolithiasis**

Core Curriculum in Nephrology

AJKD

Kidney Stone Pathophysiology, Evaluation and Management: Core Curriculum 2023



Shani Shastri, Jiten Patel,* Kamalanathan K. Sambandam, and Eleanor D. Lederer*

Thank you

