Renal arcuate vein microthrombi – a new clinico-pathological entity causing acute kidney injury in young adults

Recently, a series of six patients from two neighbouring renal units have been identified who had Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) caused by a new and unexplained histological diagnosis on renal biopsy. The patients were young adults who presented with flank pain or lower back pain as their principle symptom. All had consumed alcohol in the days leading up to the admission.

Renal biopsy demonstrated microthrombi in the renal arcuate veins with a corresponding stereotypical, localised inflammatory infiltrate at the corticomedullary junction.

Additional investigations to date have not revealed an underlying cause for these histopathological changes. So far, all patients have recovered with supportive care.

We are attempting to determine if this condition is more widespread across the UK; if so, this may require further investigation.

Action

- We request that renal units share details of any cases that have presented with a similar clinical picture, or cases with similar findings at renal biopsy, and to whether alcohol or any other factors were implicated in the aetiology of the acute kidney injury.

Please submit comments and personal experience to:

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