



RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY AND COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY FINDINGS IN RENAL MASSES.

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Abstract

Introduction: Renal masses include a heterogenous group of kidney lesions which lead to enlargement of kidney. Both benign and cancerous growths can cause increase in kidney size. The advent of USG and CT in recent years has lead to the early recognition of small asymptomatic lesions during the examination performed for the reasons other than for a suspected renal mass. It is recommended that USG should be the initial screening modality in a patient suspected of having renal mass and CT should be used for further characterisation of the lesion as well as the staging of the malignant lesion. In the present study we evaluated the diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound and CT in the detection of renal masses and comparison of findings of these imaging modalities.

Aims and objective:

1. To evaluate the patients with renal masses by ultrasonography [USG] and computed tomography[CT].
2. Comparison of findings of USG and CT.

Material and methods:

The prospective study was carried out in the Department of Radio-diagnosis, Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. The present study included 60 patients. Patients presenting with clinically suspected renal masses confirmed on USG in both males and females of any age group were included in the present study.

Results: Out of 60 patients included in study RCC was found in 29 patients, Wilm's tumour in 3, metastasis in 4, renal lymphoma in 2, angiomyolipoma in 4, abscess in 7, pyonephritis in 4, hydatid cyst in 1, renal hematoma in 1, perinephric collection in 1, oncocytoma in 1, complex cyst in 2 patients and adrenal mass in 1 patient. In evaluation of renal masses on CT, our study shows 96.55% sensitivity, 96.77% specificity, 96.55% positive predictive value, 96.77% negative predictive value and 96.6% accuracy. In evaluation of renal masses on USG, our study shows 89.66% sensitivity, 87.10% specificity, 86.66% positive predictive value, 90.0% negative predictive value and 88.3% accuracy.

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Introduction:-

The renal masses comprise a large variety of space occupying lesions, which are composed of nonfunctioning renal tissue. Most of them are neoplastic, while some of these are inflammatory, congenital, cystic or traumatized tissue. Renal neoplasm can be either benign or malignant. Renal cell carcinoma is the most common primary malignancy of kidney accounting for 2% of all cancer diagnoses^[1] and Wilm's tumour being the most common childhood tumour.^[2] Other important neoplasms are angiomyolipoma, oncocytoma, multilocular cystic nephroma, hemangioma, lymphoma, sarcoma, metastases, transitional cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

Usual clinical presentation of malignant renal neoplasm is in the form of hematuria, flank pain or lump abdomen. However, benign lesions including benign cortical cysts remain asymptomatic most of times and are discovered incidentally on USG or CT. Renal neoplasms were usually detected late in their course in the past when the lesions had already metastasized. Surgical exploration was done in the less aggressive lesions to establish histopathological confirmation but the reliance on surgical exploration and histological diagnosis was challenged increasingly. Simultaneously various studies claimed that sequential use of radiological investigations can identify the nature of renal masses with diagnostic accuracy comparable to that of surgical exploration.

There is tremendous advancement in the visualization of urinary tract disorders in the past two decades especially in the detection and characterization of renal masses and even early recognition of small asymptomatic lesions with a high detection rate can be achieved by the sequential use of various recent diagnostic modalities that includes plain radiography, excretory urography, ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Plain abdominal radiograph (KUB) may rarely be used now as the first study to alert the radiologist to the presence of a renal mass, similarly intravenous urography (IVU) may sometimes be the initial study to depict a renal mass.

Ultrasonography (USG) is often the initial modality for imaging of the kidneys, although contrast enhanced CT is an established imaging modality for the diagnosis of renal tumors.^[3] Ultrasound has a primary role in differentiating cystic from solid lesions and is superior to CT in demonstrating the complex internal architecture of cystic lesions in terms of internal fluid content, septations, tiny nodules and wall abnormalities including associated soft tissue masses.^[4] Ultrasonography is easily performed without the need for sedation or ionizing radiation and without requirement of intravenous contrast injection so it is valuable for children, pregnant women and those having impaired renal function or sensitivity to iodinated contrast media. It is portable, relatively inexpensive and readily available in small towns and is thereby the best and most common screening procedure for detection of renal lesions especially in our country where 40% population is below poverty line. Recently, pulsed doppler USG and colour doppler flow imaging (CDFI) has shown promise in not only differentiating between different types of renal masses by intralésional blood flow patterns but also the extension of the tumour intralésionally.

The primary limitation of USG include problems related to incomplete staging (bones, lungs, regional nodes) and to the detection of small non contour deforming masses

CT has a profound impact on diagnostic uro-radiology among all modern modalities despite the availability of less expensive imaging methods particularly USG and MRI. CT has continued to play a major role in the diagnosis and follow-up of patients with urologic disease. Its non-invasive nature and extremely high diagnostic yield ultimately makes it an integral component of uro-radiological diagnosis.^[5] It is more accurate in delineating a renal mass and in differentiating between a pseudomass and a normal anatomic variant from a tumour and allows studies in patients who have dense renal calcification or in whom USG is technically difficult. It should be used in many areas for definite evaluation of lesions suspected from other studies, for example IVU or USG. But for many disorders, like angiomyolipoma, calcified renal mass or para-pelvic cyst etc. the diagnostic power of CT is so definitive that its use as the primary diagnostic procedure is justified and other studies are not required. Dynamic thin section CT is highly accurate in evaluating tumour extension into the renal vein or IVC but MRI or USG may be helpful in identifying the cephalic extent of the tumour. CT is the method of choice for post nephrectomy renal fossa surveillance following the treatment.

Primary limitation of CT is the characterization of hypoattenuation in masses smaller than 8-10mm, in which pseudoenhancement may be a problem. US may be of some use in characterization the lesions as cysts.

The aim of the study was to elucidate the role of helical CT and USG in the evaluation of renal masses and correlation of USG and CT findings.

Material And Methods:-

The prospective study was carried out in the Department of Radio-diagnosis, Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. The present study included 60 patients.

Patients presenting with clinically suspected renal masses confirmed on USG in both males and females of any age group were included in the present study. Patients presenting with simple cysts on USG were not included in the present study. Relevant history, clinical examination and routine investigations were done. Patients underwent ultrasonography (USG) and computed tomography (CT scan) investigations. FNAC was done when required.

Requirements for the present study:

Ultrasound machine (Philips Envisor)

CT Scanner (Siemens Somatom Emotion 6-slice)

Ultrasonography:-

Technique:-

USG was performed with Philips Envisor machine. An appropriate transducer frequency ranging from 2.5 to 5 MHz was used, depending on the body habitus. The sonographic examination of the kidneys included long axis and transverse views of the upper poles, midportions, and the lower poles, with assessment of the cortex and central sinus. Kidneys and perirenal regions were assessed for abnormalities.

CECT Scan:-

Technique:-

Examination was conducted on Siemens Somatom Emotion, six slice CT machine. Slice thickness of 8mm x 8mm collimation was used. Precontrast study of the kidneys was performed initially followed by the postcontrast study of the kidneys, 70-80 seconds after the initiation of intravenous bolus of contrast injection. Initial post contrast study was performed in the nephrographic phase of renal enhancement. Delayed CT was performed using same parameters as used in initial postcontrast study.

Contrast Material:-

Nonionic iodine contrast 300mg was used in our study. 100ml of contrast was injected intravenously by the peripheral intravenous route at the rate of 2-3ml/sec. Continuous monitoring of the vital parameters was done during contrast injection.

Observations:-

This prospective study was carried out in Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. Sixty patients were selected from the OPD and wards of the hospital. Relevant data about patient's name, age, sex, clinical history, physical examination and routine relevant investigations were recorded as per plan. Various parameters as described in material and methods were studied and from these parameters, observations were recorded. Following tables, charts and illustrations were made to achieve the aims and objectives of our study.

Table1:- Distribution of total patients included in study according to type of renal mass found.

Type of Lesion	No. of Cases
Renal cell carcinoma	29(48.3%)
Wilm's tumour	03(5%)
Metastasis	04(6.66%)
Renal lymphoma	02(3.33%)
Oncocytoma	01(1.66%)
Angiomyolipoma	04(6.66%)
Renal abscess	07(11.66%)
Pyelonephritis	04(6.66%)
Hydatid cyst	01(1.66%)
Renal hematoma	01(1.66%)
Perinephric collection	01(1.66%)
Complex cyst	02(3.33%)

In 60 patients renal masses were found in 59 patients. In one patient one lesion diagnosed as RCC on USG and CT, that was actually adrenal mass on biopsy.

Out of 60 patients included in study RCC was found in 29 patients, Wilm's tumour in 3, metastasis in 4, renal lymphoma in 2, angiomyolipoma in 4, abscess in 7, pyonephritis in 4, hydatid cyst in 1, renal hematoma in 1, perinephric collection in 1, oncocytoma in 1, complex cyst in 2 patients and adrenal mass in 1 patient.

USG correctly diagnosed 26 cases of RCC while CT detected 28 cases (true positive). USG report was normal in one case but it was RCC on CT. In second case in which USG report revealed renal abscess, it was found to be RCC on CT which was later confirmed on FNAC. One case was diagnosed as renal abscess on both USG and CT that was found to be RCC on biopsy (false negative). USG findings were suggestive of renal mass in two patients but when CT was done no solid component was seen and these cases were diagnosed as complex cysts (false positive). One lesion appears hypoechoic on USG and, CT was advised to rule out any focal mass. It was found to be a focal perinephric collection on CT scan (false positive). One patient was diagnosed to have RCC on both USG and CT but biopsy revealed adrenal mass (false positive). Out of these 29 cases 23 patients got FNAC done which confirmed USG and CT findings.

Table 2:- Appearance of RCC on USG and CT.

	No of lesions detected	Solid	Cystic	Solid/cystic
USG	26	22	2	2
CT	28	24	1	3

Out of 26 lesions detected by USG, 22 (84%) masses were solid and 2 masses were cystic and on the other hand out of 28 cases, 24 (85%) masses were solid and 1 was cystic on appearance in CT. Cystic mass was found on USG in one patient but when CT was performed it shows enhancing nodule that was later found to be cystic RCC on FNAC. 2 lesions show solid and cystic component on both USG and CT.

Table no 3:- Echopattern on USG

ISOECHOIC	HYPOECHOIC	HYPERECHOIC	HETEROGENOUS
15(57.6%)	02(7.6%)	02(7.6%)	07(26.9%)

Table no4:- Appearance on CT

HETEROGENOUS	CYSTIC
27(96.4%)	01(3.5%)

Most common echopattern on ultrasound was isoechoic in 57.6% followed by heterogenous and hypoechoic. 96% masses were heterogenous followed by cystic lesions on CT (3.5%).

Table no 5:- Bosnaik classification of cystic lesions

	CYSTIC LESION	SOLID AND CYSTIC LESION
USG	2	2
CT	1(Bosnaik type 2)	3(Bosnaik type 3/4)

Two lesions were detected as cystic masses on USG, one of these shows internal echoes on USG and was found to be cystic mass with enhancing septae on CT (Bosnaik type 2). Enhancing nodules were seen on CT in second cystic lesion (Bosnaik type 3/4) detected by USG. Other two lesions showed both solid and cystic components on both USG and CT (Bosnaik type 3/4).

Table no6:- Imaging characteristics of RCC found on USG and CT

IMAGING FEATURES	ULTRASOUND	CT
Calcification	06	13
Collaterals	00	06
Fat component	00	01
Perinephric extension	00	15
IVC Thrombus	02	02
Increased diameter of IVC	02	02
Lymphadenopathy	11	17

Calcification was seen in 13 cases on CT and in 6 cases on USG. LAP was seen in 17 cases on CT and in 11 cases on USG. IVC thrombus was seen in 2 cases on USG and CT. CT additionally detected perinephric extension in 15 cases, collaterals in 6 cases and fat component in one lesion.

Table 7:- Imaging features of wilm's tumour on ct and usg

IMAGING FEATURES	USG	CT
Appearance	Heterogenous-3	Heterogenous-3
Necrotic areas	0	2
Perinephric extension	0	1
Lymphadenopathy	2	3
IVC invasion	0	0

Echopattern was heterogenous and predominantly hyperechoic in one lesion and heterogenous in other two lesions on USG. Appearance was heterogenous in three cases on CT. Perinephric extension was seen in one case and necrotic areas in two cases on CT. LAP was seen in all of 3 cases on CT and in 2 cases on USG. No invasion of IVC was seen in any of three cases on both modalities.

Angiomyolipoma:-

Out of 60 cases angiomyolipoma was found in 4 cases.

Both USG and CT correctly detected two of these cases as angiomyolipoma. In one case, which appears mildly hyperechoic on USG, possibility of RCC was given but on CT this lesion shows minimal amount of fat and was diagnosed as angiomyolipoma that was later confirmed on pathological correlation. One case was diagnosed as hematoma on USG but when CT was done this lesion contains fat and was found to be angiomyolipoma associated with hemorrhage.

Oncocytoma:-

Out of 60 patients, one patient was found to have a well-defined homogenous mass on USG, which on CT showed central scar suggestive of oncocytoma. This case was confirmed as renal oncocytoma on biopsy.

Metastatic lesions:-

Out of 60 cases, metastatic lesions were found in four cases.

In one pt with no known primary malignancy, multiple lesions were seen in b/l kidneys associated with abdominal lap on USG. When CT was done multiple b/l renal lesions with abdominal lap was found. A well-defined hypodense lesion was also found in liver and a heterogenous mass with spiculated margins was found in available sections of lung in right lower lobe. When biopsy was done it was diagnosed as case of bronchogenic carcinoma with renal and hepatic metastasis.

Out of two patients of ca oesophagus, USG detected heterogenous mass in one patient, when CT was done heterogenous mass with perinephric extension and abdominal lap was found. In other patient with normal ultrasound, CT detected a heterogenous mass of 2.8 cm in right kidney.

In fourth patient (known case of ca sigmoid colon) USG detected one renal lesion and CT detected multiple renal lesions (3 in number). Abdominal lap was found on both USG and CT. Multiple hepatic lesions were also seen on both USG and CT. CT also detected lytic lesions in vertebral bodies.

Table 8:- Imaging features of metastatic lesions on usg and ct

	USG	CT
Detected Lesions	4	7
Lymphadenopathy	2	3
Perinephric extension	0	1

Renal lymphoma:-

Multiple bilateral renal hypodense masses associated with retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy were found on USG in one patient. CT detected multiple poorly enhancing homogenous bilateral renal masses associated with

retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy (LAP). One renal lesion shows exophytic component on CT. Some of nodal masses cause impression on kidneys and there was also seen encasement of renal vessels by lymph nodes on computed tomography. In second patient bilateral renal masses were seen on both modalities. Masses were seen displacing the pelvi-calyceal system medially. Insignificant lymph nodes in mesentery and retroperitoneum were also found on CT. These cases were diagnosed as lymphoma with renal involvement by pathological correlation.

Renal Abscess:-

Out of 60 cases renal abscesses were found in 7 patients

Table 9:- imaging features of renal abscesses on ct and usg

	USG	CT
Lesions detected	7	8
Appearance	Hypoechoic-5 Heterogenous-2	Hypodense-5 Heterogenous-3
Rim enhancement		6HT-Enhancement-2
Wall of lesion	Well defined walls-5 Illdefined walls-2	Thick and irregular-6 Well defined walls-2
Intralesional air	1	1
Perinephric extension	2	6
Perinephric fluid	0	1
Lymphadenopathy	3	5
Psoas muscle Thickening	3	2
Psoas abscess	0	2

In these 7 patients, both modalities detected 7 lesions. In one patient USG detected only one lesion while CT revealed two lesions, second lesion that was missed on USG was smaller in size (2.4cm). On USG, 5 lesions were hypoechoic and two were heterogenous in echopattern on USG. On CT, 5 lesions were hypodense and three were heterogenous. CT showed rim enhancement in 6 lesions, heterogenous enhancement in 2 lesions, perinephric fluid in 1 case, perinephric extension in 6, LAP in 5, psoas abscess in 2, psoas thickening in 2 and intralesional air in one case. USG detected perinephric extension in 2, LAP in 3 and psoas thickening in 3 cases. Psoas abscess was not separately identified on USG from renal abscess.

Pyelonephritis:-

Out of 60 cases pyelonephritis was found in 4 cases.

Table 10:- Imaging features of pyelonephritis on ct and usg.

	USG	CT
Appearance	HT-4	HT-4
Perinephric extension	0	3
Perinephric fat stranding	0	1
Thickening of psoas muscle	0	1
Lymphadenopathy	1	2
Intralesional fat	0	1
Calculus	1	1

Out of 4 cases, 3 cases were detected, as pyelonephritis on USG that was later confirmed on CT. Appearance was heterogenous in 3 lesions on both modalities. Perinephric extension was seen on CT in two cases, and perinephric fat stranding in one case. CT showed mild thickening of psoas muscle in one case. LAP was seen in one case on USG and in two cases on CT. Both modalities showed a heterogenous mass with calculus in one patient. Perinephric extension and fatty component was also seen on CT and it was diagnosed as a case of xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis, which was later on confirmed pathologically.

Table 11:- Imaging features of renal hydatid cyst on usg and ct

	USG	CT
Appearance	Hypoechoic	Hypodense non enhancing
Calcification	+	+
Perinephric extension	-	+

One patient out of 60 patients presented with swelling of right lumbar region after trauma, which was correctly detected as hematoma on both modalities. USG shows a large hypodense lesion involving almost whole of renal parenchyma that was extending superiorly to inferior surface of liver. When CT was done lesion appears non-enhancing hyper attenuating (50-60 HU) involving upper and middle poles of right kidney. Lower pole shows normal excretion of contrast. Lesion was seen extending superiorly and indenting inferior surface of liver, medially lesion was seen extending to right paraaortic region and causing narrowing of IVC. The lesion displaced renal vessels anteriorly. CT also demonstrates extravasation of contrast material in hematoma.

Two lesions appeared cystic on USG with internal septations without any solid component, which were correctly diagnosed as complex renal cysts on CT.

One lesion appeared hypoechoic on USG and CT was advised to rule out any focal mass. It was found to be a focal perinephric collection on CT scan.

One case out of 60 diagnosed as upper pole RCC on both modalities, which was found to be adrenal lesion on biopsy.

Discussion:-

Out of 60 patients included in our study, RCC was most commonly found renal lesions constitute 29(48.33%) of total renal lesions followed by angiomyolipoma/metastasis 4(6.66%) and Wilm's tumour 3 (5%) as shown in Table 3. Neoplastic lesions constitute 71.6% and inflammatory lesions constitute 23.3 % of total lesions.

Our study correlates with study of Bajwa et al^[48] in which renal cell carcinoma was the commonest found renal lesion (45.8%) followed by Wilm's tumour (4.28%), transitional cell carcinoma (2.8%), lymphoma and angiomyolipoma (AML) in 1.4% each. Neoplastic lesions were observed in 39 (55.7%) cases and inflammatory lesions in 23 cases (32.9%) in their study.

RCC was also commonly detected and evaluated renal neoplasm in study of Hatimota et al^[46].

In studies conducted by Linblad^[50], Lipworth et al^[51] and NG et al^[52] renal cell carcinoma emerged as the commonest tumour in men than in women.

Table 8:- Rcc detection on usg.

True Positive	26
True Negative	27
False Positive	04
False Negative	03
Sensitivity (%)	89.66
Specificity (%)	87.10
Positive Predictive Value (%)	86.67
Negative Predictive Value (%)	90.00
Accuracy (%)	88.3

Table 9:- Rcc detection on ct

True Positive	28
True Negative	30
False Positive	01
False Negative	01
Sensitivity (%)	96.55
Specificity (%)	96.77
Positive Predictive Value (%)	96.55
Negative Predictive Value (%)	96.77
Accuracy (%)	96.6

In study conducted by Warshauer et al^[25] specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value of USG for the detection of renal masses were 91%, 82% and 73% respectively. Our study correlates with study of Levitt et al^[11] which concluded that CT and USG offer complementary and supplementary role in the evaluation of renal and pancreatic disease. In their study specificity, sensitivity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value of CT for detection of renal masses were 100%, 90%, 100% and 96.88%. Accuracy was 97% as against 96.6% in our study. However, sensitivity of USG was 60% in their study that is low in comparison to our study (89.66%). Specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value and accuracy were 100%, 100%, 84% and 87% respectively.

Our study correlates with studies of Sagel et al^[5] (1977), Bajwa et al^[48] (2007), King^[9] (1972) and Dachille et al^[53] (2005) that demonstrated similar values as in present study for the detection of renal masses on USG and CT as shown Table 22 and Table 23.

Table 10:- Role of ct in evaluation of renal masses in different studies

Study and year	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	PPV%	NPV%	Accuracy%
Levitt et al ^[11] (1978)	90.0	100	100	96.88	97
Bajwa et al ^[48] (2007)	97.44	100	100	96.88	98.5%
Sagelet al ^[5] (1977)	100	99.05	95.65	100	99
Present study	96.55	96.77	96.55	96.77	96.6

Table 11:- Role of usg in evaluation of renal masses in different studies

Study and year	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (0%)	PPV(%)	NPV(%)	Accuracy(%)
Warshauer et al ^[25] (1988)		91	82	73	
Dachille et al ^[53] (2005)	80	95			
Levitt et al ^[11] (1978)	60	100	100	84	87
Bajwa et al ^[48] (2007)	94.87	100	100	93.94	85.71
King ^[9] (1972)	89.66	95.4	86.67	96.5	93.9
Present study	89.66	87.10	86.6	90.0	88.3

Most common appearance of RCC masses was solid 22 (84%) on USG as against 24 (85%) on CT .

2 masses were cystic on USG and out of these, 1 was cystic on CT. Two lesions showed combined solid and cystic components on both modalities.

Most common echopattern observed was isoechoic(57.6%) followed by heterogenous on USG as against 96% on CT in our study.

These findings are in agreement with the study of Hatimota et al^[46] (2005) where most renal cell carcinomas had a solid appearance. On USG, the most common appearance of RCC was predominantly isoechoic to normal renal parenchyma (78%) followed by hypoechoic and hyperechoic lesions. On CT, most of the lesions of RCC were heterogeneous in attenuation with inhomogeneous contrast enhancement less than that of normal renal parenchyma.



Figure 1:- Ultrasound image showing heterogenous well-defined mass in upper and mid pole of right kidney. IVC is dilated and shows an echogenic material consistent with thrombus.



Figure 2:- Computed tomography image shows a heterogeneously enhancing mass is seen in upper and mid pole regions of right kidney. Lumen of IVC is expanded and shows heterogeneously enhancing mass suggestive of tumour throm.

CT modality was found to be more sensitive in detection of small lesions as one lesion missed on USG was detected on CT, which was measuring less than 3 cm (2.6 cm) in size as shown in Table 9. Similarly, the studies by Kostakopoulou et al^[29](1990) and Jamis-Dow et al^[39](1996) showed better sensitivity of CT in detection of small lesions of kidney in comparison to USG but a substantial proportion of small lesions were not visualized with either modality. Study of Bowen et al^[1] also concluded that CT and MRI imaging are nearly ideal techniques for the detection, diagnosis, staging, and preoperative evaluation of small renal masses. So, our study is in consistence with these studies.

Cystic lesions belongs to category III and IV were found to be malignant as shown in Table 5 and it also depicted the usefulness of Bosniak classification in cystic renal lesions. Our study correlates well with study of Curry et

al^[42](2000) in which all 18 patients of category IV lesions were malignant. 29 (59%) of 49 pooled category III masses were malignant.



Figure 3:- Ultrasound image shows a well-defined hypoechoic mass with peripheral nodules is seen in left kidney. Internal echoes are also seen in the cystic mass.

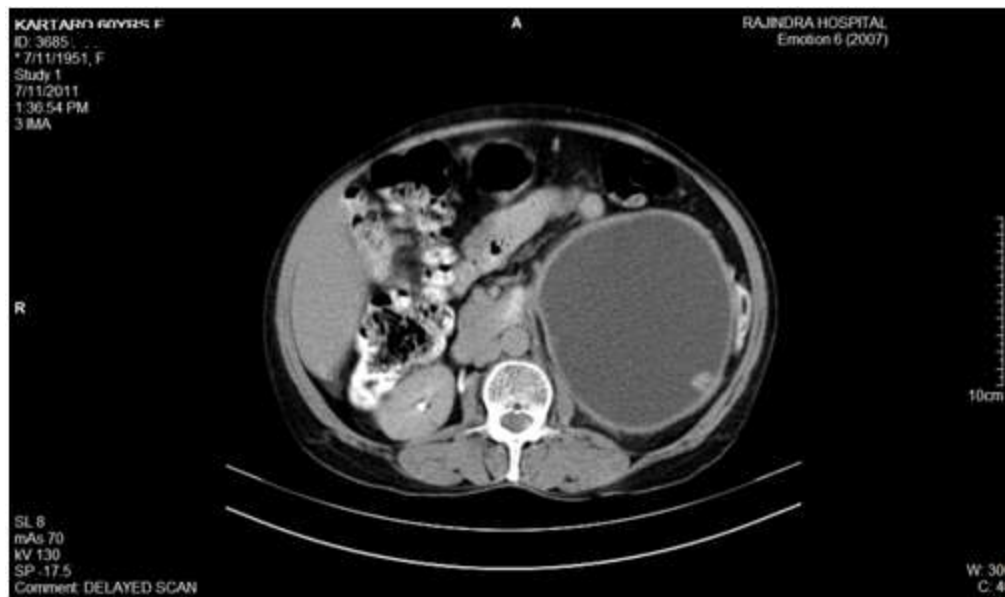


Figure 4:- COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY - A well-defined thick walled cystic lesion with irregular enhancing nodule is seen arising from upper pole of left kidney.

Calcification and LAP were better seen on CT than USG as shown in Table 6. LAP was seen in 17 cases on CT as against 11 cases on USG. IVC thrombus was found in 2 cases on CT and USG. Our findings are consistent with Weyman et al^[14](1982) who concluded that CT has a definite advantage over other radiographic techniques in its ability to evaluate the composition and precisely locating calcifications within renal masses that results in more accurate evaluation of calcified renal masses.



Figure 5:- USG-A heterogenous mass with multiple foci of calcification is seen in upper and mid pole of left kidney.

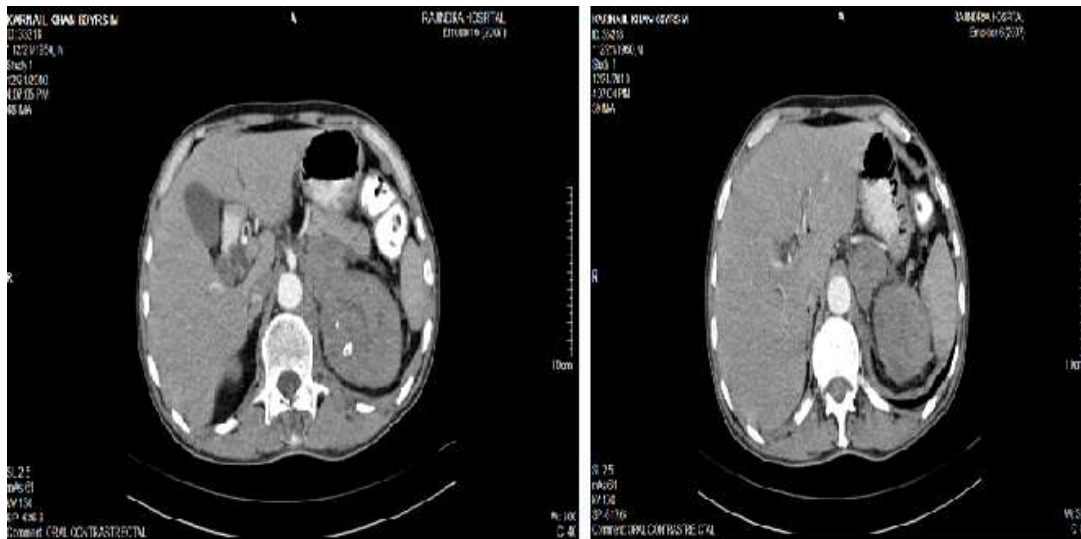


Figure 6:- COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY- A heterogeneously enhancing mass with calcified foci and necrotic areas is seen involving upper and mid pole of left kidney. Another poorly enhancing mass is seen in left adrenal gland suggestive of adrenal metastasis.

CT additionally detected perinephric extension in 15 cases, collaterals in 6 cases and fat component in one lesion again signifying the high sensitivity and value of CT over USG. Our study correlates well with study of Levine et al^[12](1980) which concluded that CT was capable of detecting tumor invasion of perinephric fat and adjacent muscles, which cannot usually be shown by ultrasound. While both CT and ultrasound demonstrate venous and retroperitoneal tumor extension, CT was more reliable.

Our study correlates well with studies of Bajwa et al^[48](2007) and Zagoria et al^[31](1990) who concluded that helical CT is highly sensitive in diagnosing and staging of renal masses.

Our study is in agreement with the study of Hatimota et al^[46](2005) who concluded that USG and CT showed many of the key imaging features used to characterize most of the renal neoplasms. However, some lesions remain indeterminate and require percutaneous biopsy to confirm the diagnosis.

2 children with Wilm's tumour were less than 5 years old and 1 child was 9 years old as shown in Table 7. Study conducted by Paltiel^[2] (2007) concluded that most Wilm's tumors appear within the first 5 years of life. Mean age group was 54 months in our study. Study of Breslow et al^[54] (1988) concluded that median ages for Wilm's tumour at diagnosis were 36.5 and 42.5 month.

One child in present study with Wilm's tumour was 9 yr old, which does not correlate with these studies. Late presentation of child could be the reason.

Echopattern of Wilm's tumour on USG was heterogenous and hyperechoic in one lesion and heterogenous in other two lesions as shown in Table 7. Appearance was heterogenous in all three cases on CT. These findings are consistent with the study of Paltiel^[2] (2007) which showed that Wilm's tumor is typically large, sharply marginated and hyperechoic relative to the normal renal parenchyma on USG.

Our study correlates with study of Fishman et al^[55] (1983) in which appearance of Wilm's tumour was inhomogeneous on the noncontrast studies and slight enhancement was noted after contrast medium injection.

Perinephric extension and lymph node involvement were better seen on CT than USG as shown in Table 13 in our study which correlates well with the study of Reiimen et al^[22] (1986) which concluded that tumor necrosis and a pseudocapsule were detected more often using CT scans than sonograms. CT was also more sensitive in assessing perinephric extension, lymph node involvement, and bilateral tumors.

Present study is in agreement with study of Patel et al^[33] (1991) which showed that US and CT were complementary to one another in evaluation of Wilm's tumor.

2 cases of Angiomyolipoma (AML) were detected in our study by both modalities. However, CT additionally detected 2 more cases, which were missed on USG, by detecting fat densities. Appearances on USG and CT were hyperechoic and heterogenous respectively. Our study correlates with study of Hatimota et al^[46] (2005) where they found that AML lesions appeared as heterogenous lesions with internal fat density on NCCT, and showed inhomogeneous enhancement on CECT. Our study also correlates with study of Paspulati et al^[3] (2006) in which characteristic sonographic appearance of AML was a well-defined hyperechoic mass and demonstration of intratumoral fat on CT confirmed the diagnosis of an AML.

Our study is in agreement with study of Bajwa et al^[48] (2007) which demonstrated that presence of even a small amount of fat within the renal mass on CT virtually excluded the diagnosis of RCC and is considered diagnostic of AML. Study of Bosniak et al^[23] (1988) also showed that detecting the existence of fat in a renal lesion by CT established the diagnosis of AML and was the only radiologic finding that could differentiate it from RCC.

1 case was diagnosed as hematoma on USG but when CT was done this lesion contains fat and was found to be AML associated with hemorrhage. Our study correlates with study of Sebastia et al^[40] (1997) who concluded that CT is a useful technique for the initial evaluation of SPH permitting diagnosis of hemorrhage and identification of the underlying cause.

Present study is in consistence with study of Antonopoulos et al^[56] (1996) in which computed tomography revealed the complications in angiomyolipoma like compression of pelvicalyceal system in 3 cases, intratumoral bleeding in 2 cases, rupture in 4 cases with subcapsular, perirenal, or pararenal hematoma and extensive intrarenal/parapelvic hematoma, cystic degeneration in 1 case.

Out of 60 patients, 1 patient had a well-defined homogenous mass on USG, which showed a central scar indicative of Oncocytoma on CT, which was later confirmed on biopsy. Thus, our study correlates with study of Quinn et al^[20] (1984) which concluded Oncocytomas can be suggested if a stellate scar is identified within an otherwise homogenous tumor on ultrasound (US) and CT. If the mass appears homogeneous without scar, angiography should be performed.

USG detected 4 metastatic renal lesions as against 7 lesions on CT. Lesions that were missed on USG were smaller in size. CT was better in detecting perinephric extension and lymph nodal involvement in renal masses. Our study correlates with the studies of Kostakopoulos et al^[29] (1990) and Jamis-Dow et al^[39] (1996) which showed better

sensitivity of CT in detection of small lesions of kidney but this sensitivity is directly proportional to the size of lesion.

Out of 60 patients, 2 were diagnosed as renal lymphoma. Multiple b/l renal hypodense masses associated with retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy were found in 1 patient on USG and CT. 1 renal lesion shows exophytic component on CT. Some of nodal masses cause impression on kidneys and there was encasement of renal vessels by lymph nodes as seen on CT. Bilateral renal masses were seen in second patient on both modalities and these masses were seen displacing the pelvicalyceal system medially. Associated insignificant lymphadenopathy in mesentery and retroperitoneum were also found on CT.

Thus, our study is in agreement with study of Chepuri et al^[44](2003) which concluded that multiple bilateral masses were the most common CT appearance in renal lymphoma. Less common presentations were focal solitary masses or an engulfing mass. Retroperitoneal lymph node enlargement and other organ involvements were common associated findings. Our study also correlates with study of Weinberger et al^[30] which showed that both CT and USG depicted extrinsic effects on the kidneys (either displacement or hydronephrosis) due to adjacent retroperitoneal or mesenteric mass. They concluded that contrast-enhanced CT was superior to sonography for detection of renal lymphoma.

Out of 7 cases of renal abscesses, USG detected 7 lesions, which were later, confirmed on CT scans. USG detected only one lesion in 1 patient while CT found two lesions in that patient. Small size could be the reason for its nondetection on USG. So, our study correlates with the studies of Kostakopoulos et al^[29] (1990) and Jamis-Dow et al^[39](1996) which showed the better sensitivity of CT in detection of small lesions of kidney but this sensitivity is directly proportional to the size of lesion.

CT depicted rim enhancement in 6 lesions, heterogenous enhancement in 2 lesions, perinephric fluid in 1 case, perinephric extension in 6, LAP in 5, psoas abscess in 2, psoas thickening in 2 and intralesional air in 1 case while USG detected perinephric extension in 2, LAP in 3 and psoas thickening in 2 cases shown in Table 16. Psoas abscess was not separately identified on USG from renal abscess.

Our study therefore, correlates with the study of Hoddick et al^[17] which showed that computed tomography seems to be the more sensitive method in evaluating severe renal and perirenal infections. Our study is also consistent with study of Soulen et al^[28](1989) which concluded that USG was not an adequate screening test for detecting lesions that may require invasive therapy. CT was more sensitive for the detection of acute renal inflammatory disease and for defining the extent of disease for planning of radiologic or surgical intervention.

Out of 4 cases of pyelonephritis, 3 were detected on both modalities in our study as shown in Table 10. Appearance was heterogenous in all lesions on both USG and CT. Perinephric extension was seen in 2 cases and perinephric fat stranding in 1 case on CT. CT shows mild thickening of psoas muscle in 1 case and LAP was seen in 1 and 2 cases on USG and CT respectively. Our study correlates with the study of Hoddick et al^[17](1983) in which they found that computed tomography seems to be the more sensitive method of evaluating severe renal and perirenal infections.



Figure 7:- USG- A poorly defined heterogenouslesion is seen in upper and mid pole of left kidney.



Figure 8:- COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY - A heterogeneously enhancing mass with poorly defined margins is seen in upper and mid pole of left kidney. Mild perinephric stranding is seen.

USG and CT showed a heterogenous mass with calculus in 1 patient as shown in Table 11. Perinephric extension and fatty component was also seen on CT and it was diagnosed as a case of xanthogranulomatous pyelonephritis, which was later on confirmed pathologically. Our study correlates with study of Goldman et al^[18] (1984) which concluded that CT played a role in diagnosis and preoperative planning to demonstrate the extent of extrarenal disease that is poorly depicted by other means.

Conclusion:-

Ultrasonography is often the initial modality for imaging of the kidneys, although contrast enhanced CT is an established imaging modality for the diagnosis of renal tumors. Ultrasonography is easily performed without the need for sedation or ionizing radiation and without requirement of intravenous contrast injection so it is valuable for

children, pregnant women and those having impaired renal function or sensitivity to iodinated contrast. It is portable and relatively inexpensive. CT has a profound impact on diagnostic uro-radiology among all modern modalities. It has proven useful for imaging the complete spectrum of renal and ureteral disorders. It allows studies in patients who have dense renal calcification or in whom USG is technically difficult. Helical CT is highly sensitive in diagnosing and staging of renal masses. CT is capable of detecting tumor invasion of perinephric fat and adjacent muscles, which cannot usually be seen by ultrasound. While both CT and ultrasound demonstrate venous and retroperitoneal tumor extension, CT is more reliable.

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