

Crossed unfused renal ectopia

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DESCRIPTION

A 45-year-old man with no premorbid illness was referred to us for the evaluation of left-sided abdominal pain since 2 months. The abdominal examination revealed a large mass in the left hypochondrium and left lumbar region. A CT of the abdomen showed a mass measuring

25.7×16.2×12.6 cm arising from the greater curvature of the body of the stomach. The left kidney was ectopically located and seen in the right iliac fossa with the hilum facing posteriorly. The right ureter had a normal course and the left ureter crossed the midline and entered into the urinary bladder at the usual position (figures 1–3). A biopsy was taken from the mass which on histopathological examination revealed a gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST).

Crossed renal ectopia is a rare entity. It has been classified into 4 groups: (1) crossed fused renal ectopia, (2) crossed unfused renal ectopia, (3) bilaterally crossed kidneys and (4) solitary crossed kidney.¹ Of these, the fused variety is the most common, followed by the unfused variety. The other two are extremely rare. Our patient had crossed unfused renal ectopia. The incidence of the unfused variety has been reported to be 1 in 75 000 autopsies.² It is generally detected incidentally when the patient is being evaluated for other conditions. It may be associated with urinary abnormalities like urinary tract infection, renal calculi and ureteropelvic junction obstruction principally due to mechanical reasons. It may also be associated with skeletal, gastrointestinal and cardiopulmonary anomalies.¹ In our patient, it was associated with GIST. It is most often asymptomatic and requires no specific treatment unless there are complications.

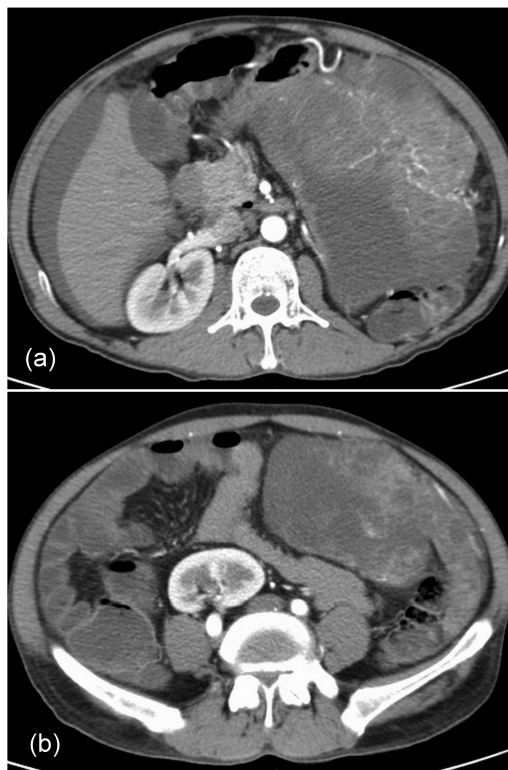


Figure 1 Axial section of contrast enhanced CT of the abdomen showing the right kidney in its normal position (A) and an ectopic left kidney situated in the right iliac fossa with the hilum facing posteriorly (B).

Learning points

- ▶ Crossed unfused ectopic kidney is a very rare condition.
- ▶ CT scan is the diagnostic modality of imaging.
- ▶ It is seldom symptomatic, requiring intervention.



Figure 2 Coronal and sagittal sections of contrast enhanced CT of the abdomen showing an ectopic left kidney.



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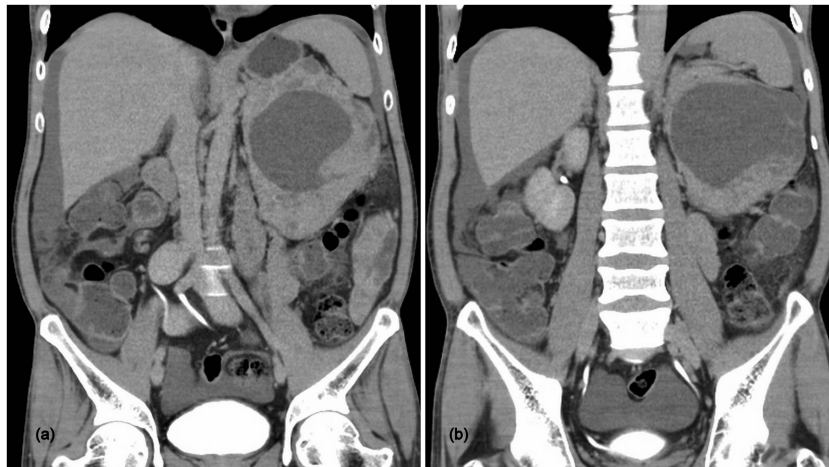


Figure 3 Coronal sections of contrast enhanced CT of the abdomen showing the normal course of the right ureter (A). The left ureter is seen to cross the midline and enter into the urinary bladder at the normal position (B).

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