Kidney tuberculosis in last century and now - is it the same disease?

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Introduction. Kidney tuberculosis (KTB) has non-specific clinical features and mimics on different other urological diseases: urolithiasis, cancer, pyelonephritis, cystitis etc. Moreover clinical features are not stable for ages, they change rather quickly. The aim was to compare clinical features of KTB in 1980-1990 (1st group, 268 patients) and in 2000-2005 (2nd group, 227 patients).

Results. The frequency of dysuria was the same (57.1% and 54.3%), but a flank pain in 2nd group was diagnosed more often (58.9% and 72.8% accordingly). Frequency of renal colic decreased from 16.1% up to 12.3%; haematuria increased from 30.4% up to 48.1%. Pyuria left most common laboratory sign – 91.7 – 91.4% in both groups. Significantly reduced a frequency of positive cultures – mycobacteriuria was revealed in 84.5% in first group and in 44.0% only in novo days. Asymptomatic course was about equal – 8.9% in 1st group and 6.2% in 2nd group. In 1st group 34.5% patients got sick acutely, with manifesting clinical features, fever, pain etc. In second group the same patients there were 4.9% only. On contrary, obscure, vogue symptoms were in 56.6% in 1st group and in 88.9% - in 2nd group.

Conclusion. Clinical features of KTB have changed in last years. In 7 times rarer became acute onset of KTB, significantly more often patients have flank pain and haematuria now. Asymptomatic course of KTB is possible too. All this may be a reason for late diagnosis.