

Relationship between time of onset and the side in ureteric colic

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Ureteric calculi are a commonly encountered clinical problem with a life time risk of 2-5% in the Asian population. Urolithiasis affects up to 2-5% of the Asian population and up to 15% of the population in western countries. Fifty percent of patients have a recurrence of renal colic within 5 years of the first episode. Radiological investigations have a predominant place in evaluating these patients. Urolithiasis is a chronic disease with substantial economic consequences and great public health importance.

This was a descriptive study conducted among patients, who were presented with ureteric colic to the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. An interviewer based questionnaire was filled and patients underwent radiological investigations to determine the side of urolithiasis. The purpose of this study was to assess the time of onset of ureteric colic and the side of the stone.

The sample size was 314. In the study sample 29.6% had no demonstrable stone. 43% had it in the right side. 27.1% had it in the left side and 0.3% had bi-lateral ureteric colic. 44.1% of patients had the onset in the morning. 22.8% had the onset in the afternoon. 33.1% had the onset at night.

From the subjects who had stones in the right side 42.1%, 23.5% and 34.4% had the onset of ureteric colic in the morning, in the afternoon and at night respectively. From the subjects who had stones in the left side, 47.4%, 19.2% and 33.4% had the onset of ureteric colic in the morning, in the afternoon and at night respectively.

Right side colic is more common than that of the left side. Ureteric colic had onset commonly in the morning and it is independent of the side. People fasting at night underwent relatively poor hydration which led to concentrated urine. That may be the reason for the highest percentage in the early part of the day.