

6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
**Urology and Renal Health**  
May 04-05, 2023 | Zurich, Switzerland

**DAY-1**  
Poster Presentation



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**Cell-free DNA (cfDNA) methylation of MIR145 promoter in predicting muscle-invasive bladder cancer progression**

**Margaritis Avgeris, Katerina-Marina Pilala, Konstantina Panoutsopoulou, Georgios Kotronopoulos, Panagiotis Levi, Georgios-Christos Giagkos, Konstantinos Stravodimos, Dido Vassilacopoulou, Andreas Scorilas**  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

The lack of personalized management of bladder cancer (BICa) resulted in patients' lifelong post-treatment monitoring with regular invasive interventions, underlying the urgent need for tailored and minimally invasive healthcare services. Based on our previous findings on MIR145 core promoter methylation imprinting in bladder tumors, we have evaluated its clinical significance in pre-treatment circulating cell-free DNA (cfDNA) of BICa patients. Methylation analysis was performed in our screening cohort, consisting of 100 BICa patients by bisulfite-based pyrosequencing. Tumor recurrence and progression for non-muscle invasive (NMIBC; TaT1), as well as progression and death for muscle-invasive (MIBC; T2-T4) patients, were used as clinical endpoint events in survival analysis. Bootstrap analysis was applied for internal validation of Cox regression models, and decision curve analysis for the assessment of clinical benefit on disease prognosis. Decreased methylation of MIR145 promoter in pre-treatment cfDNA was associated with short-term disease progression and poor overall survival of MIBC patients. Multivariate models incorporating MIR145 promoter methylation in cfDNA with established disease markers clearly ameliorated patients' risk-stratification accuracy, highlighting superior clinical benefit in BICa prognostication. Overall, reduced pre-treatment cfDNA methylation of MIR145 core promoter was markedly correlated with increased risk for inferior survival outcome of MIBC patients, supporting modern personalized and non-invasive prognosis and monitoring decisions.

**Recent publications**

1. Papadimitriou MA, Levis P, Kotronopoulos G, Stravodimos K, Avgeris M\*, Scorilas A\*. Pre-operative cell-free DNA (cfDNA) in muscle-invasive bladder cancer treatment outcome. *Clinical Chemistry* 2023;69(4):399-410
2. Pilala KM, Papadimitriou MA, Panoutsopoulou K, Barbarigos P, Levis P, Kotronopoulos G, Stravodimos K, Scorilas A, Avgeris M. Epigenetic regulation of MIR145 core promoter controls miR-143/145 cluster in bladder cancer progression and treatment outcome. *Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids* 2022;30:311-322.
3. Papadimitriou MA, Panoutsopoulou K, Pilala KM, Scorilas A, Avgeris M. Epi-miRNAs: Modern mediators of methylation status in human cancers. *WIREs RNA* 2022; 17:e1735

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## Assessment of the relationship between vitamin D with semen analysis parameters and reproductive hormones levels before and after kidney transplantation: An Iranian randomized and double-blinded study

**Hossein Dialameh**

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran

**Background:** Vitamin D's role is noticeable on homeostasis of calcium and phosphorous and bone mineralization. Some studies prove that vitamin D has a role in reproductive pathways in male and females and its direct relationship with serum androgen levels in males. The common problem of infertility can be seen in 10%–15% of couples. 25%–50% of all infertilities is due to a male factor, and fertility disturbances are common in male CKD patients.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to figure out the effect of serum vitamin D levels on semen analysis parameters and reproductive hormones before and after renal transplantation in ESRD patients.

**Methods:** This double-blind randomized clinical trial was carried out on 70 ESRD males (21–48 years old) who were candidates for renal transplantation at Sina hospital between 2021 and 2022. Participants were divided into two groups randomly. First group was supplemented by vitamin D (50,000 units weakly until 3 months), and no intervention was done in the second group. Vitamin D levels, LH, FSH, creatinine, glomerular filtration rate (GFR), calcium, total and free testosterone, PTH, sexual function, and semen analysis parameters were evaluated in a determined interval before and after (three and 6 months) kidney transplantation

**Results:** Vitamin D levels were noticeably higher in case group in comparison to the control group ( $p$ -value  $< 0.01$ ) but the difference in all other variables including calcium levels, LH, FSH, total and free testosterone, IIEF-5 score, PTH, GFR, and creatinine was insignificant ( $p$ -value  $> 0.05$ ). The comparison of semen parameters of the case with control group including sperm count, morphology, volume, and motility didn't reveal a noticeable difference between the two groups ( $p$ -value  $> 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Prescription of vitamin D as a supplementation doesn't improve sperm quality (sperm count, motility, morphology, and volume) and reproductive hormones (LH, FSH, free and total testosterone) after kidney transplantation in male CKD patients.

### Recent publications

1. Arab A, Hadi A, Moosavian SP, et al. The association between serum vitamin D, fertility and semen quality: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int Surg J* 2019; 71: 101–109.
2. Abbashormozi S, Kouhkan A, Alizadeh AR, et al. Association of vitamin D status with semen quality and reproductive hormones in Iranian subfertile men. *Andrology* 2017; 5(1): 113–118.
3. Ciccone IM, Costa EM, Pariz JR, et al. Serum vitamin D content is associated with semen parameters and serum testosterone levels in men. *Asian J Androl* 2021; 23(1): 52–58.

### Biography

Hossein Dialameh, Associate professor of urology of Tehran university of medical sciences and fellowship of renal transplant surgery is a graduate of Shiraz university of medical sciences as general physician and started urology specialty in Tehran University of Medical Sciences and was the top rank of the specialized urology board of the country in 2015. He obtained renal transplant surgery fellowship from Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

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6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
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## **Intratesticular arteriovenous malformation: A rare benign lesion in an adolescent male**

**Joseph McDaniels**

Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA

**Statement of the Problem:** Testicular masses in adolescent and young adult males are of significant concern for malignant disease. There is risk to misdiagnosing benign testicular lesions as cancer. Our objective is to present the clinical course and imaging findings of an intratesticular arteriovenous malformation found in an adolescent male patient.

**Methodology and Theoretical Orientation:** A chart-review of an adolescent male was performed and radiological imaging was recorded. The patient was followed at regular intervals after initial diagnosis. Findings: A 16-year-old male with a history of cryptorchidism of the right testis presented with complaints of a painless mass in the superior portion of the right testis. Same-day ultrasound demonstrated a hypoechoic, solid, oval-shaped intratesticular lesion that showed prominent vascularization on Doppler imaging. Punctate calcifications were also observed bilaterally and were more numerous on the right. Tumor markers acquired at the time of presentation were within normal limits. Magnetic resonance imaging with and without contrast demonstrated an enhancing lesion of the posterior superolateral aspect of the right testis that followed the blood pool, consistent with an arteriovenous malformation.

**Conclusion & Significance:** Intratesticular AVMs are exceedingly rare, with only four other cases noted on literature review. Our case presents several unique findings including concurrent testicular microlithiasis and a history of cryptorchidism. It was decided to manage the case conservatively with scrotal ultrasound surveillance every six months

### **Recent publications**

1. Skiadas V, Antoniou A, Primetis H, Mouloupoulos L, Vlahos L. Intratesticular arteriovenous malformation. Clinical course, ultrasound and MRI findings of an extremely rare lesion on a 7 year follow-up basis. *Int Urol Nephrol.* 2006;38(1):119-22.
2. Gulsen F, Mihmanli I, Kantarci F, Eren A, Ataus SO. Testicular arteriovenous malformation: gray-scale and color Doppler ultrasonography features. *Case Rep Med.* 2011;2011:876206
3. Jafarpishfard MS, Momeni M, Baradaran Mahdavi MM, Momeni F, Kamal S. An intratesticular arteriovenous malformation identified incidentally during ultrasound evaluation of scrotal trauma. *Adv Biomed Res.* 2016 Dec 27;5:202.

### **Biography**

Joseph McDaniels is a medical student interested in translational research in urology. He has a passion for improving health outcomes for surgical patients across cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. His current interests are primarily in identifying and addressing health disparities in patients diagnosed with urological malignancies and in addressing social and mental health after surgery. His ongoing research involves analysis of several outcome parameters after bladder cancer treatment in a largely African-American population as well as research in depression and suicidality of patients diagnosed with bladder and prostate cancer.

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## Does penis size matter? Or, does it just matter how it is measured?

**Madeline Snipes**

Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA

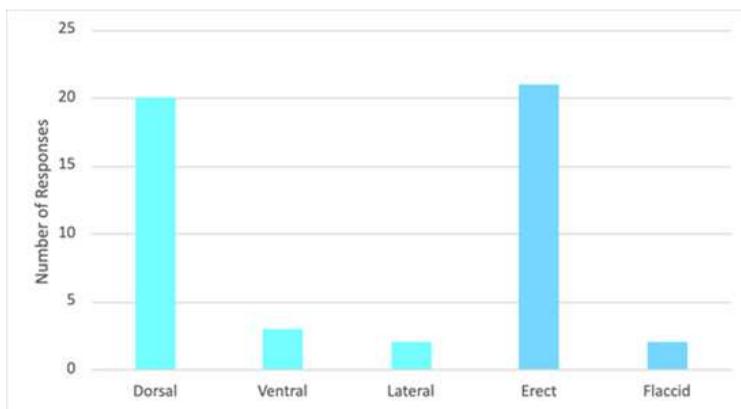
**Introduction:** There is no standardized method of penis measurement. Varying methods can yield drastically different results; However, literature rarely elaborates on measurement method. Though penis length is often discussed within and beyond healthcare, no studies have been performed on the true variety of measurement method. Penis length is a major concern of patients undergoing penile prosthesis surgery.

**Purpose:** To determine the methods by which a penis can be measured to better manage patient expectations after prosthetics surgery and move toward a standard measuring method.

**Method:** Literature review was performed to analyze penile measurement techniques. Content analysis of Reddit user comments regarding their techniques was performed to inform a survey accompanied by explanatory imaging asking Reddit users to vote on the most common discrepancies identified in our analysis: 1. Have you ever measured your penis? 2. Where do you measure? (top/side/bottom), 3. When do you measure? (hard/soft).

**Results:** 22 responses were collected on Reddit thus far and responses continue to be collected. 100% (22) of respondents have measured their penis. 90.9% (20) of respondents measured the dorsal aspect of their penis. 9.09% (3) of respondents measured the ventral aspect of their penis. 4.55% (2) of respondents measured the lateral aspect of their penis. 95.45% (21) of respondents measured while erect. 4.55% (2) of respondents measured while erect and while flaccid (Figure 1)

**Conclusions:** To our knowledge, this study is the first to survey men regarding whether they have previously measured their penis as well as their method of measurement. This is a step towards developing a standardized method of penis measurement which will aid urologists in managing expectations of penile length status post prosthesis implantation. We conclude that the majority of men have measured their penis, and they most likely measured the ventral aspect of their penis while erect.



**Figure 1:** Reddit Responses Number of responses with answers to the poll regarding location and hardness.

# 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UROLOGY AND RENAL HEALTH

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## Recent publications

1. Ure I, Ozen A, Can C. Life quality change after inflatable penile prosthesis implantation. *Aging Male*. 2020;23(5):362-368. Accessed June 22, 2022. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=i p,shib&db=s3h&AN=149940922&site=eds-live&scope=site>
2. Foresta C, Valente U, Nisio AD, et al. Anogenital distance is associated with genital measures and seminal parameters but not anthropometrics in a large cohort of young adult men. *Human Reproduction*. 2018;33(9):1628-1635. doi:10.1093/humrep/dey249
3. Akyüz O. A new perspective on penis length measurement in children: How healthy are the results obtained with the current techniques? *Andrologia*. 2020;52(11):1-5. doi:10.1111/and.13864

## Biography

Madeline Snipes is a third-year medical student at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. She is incredibly excited to be pursuing a career in urology. Her primary research interests lie in male sexual dysfunction as well as the intersection of mental health and urology. Additionally, she is passionate about sex education reform in order to promote education by trained educators who cover topics including healthy relationships, gender identity, body image, birth control, and sexually transmitted infections, among other topics.

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## **A granular analysis of quality of life in children with voiding dysfunction: A large-scale retrospective study**

**Rachel E Kaufman**

Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA

**Introduction and Objective:** Voiding Dysfunction (VD) significantly impacts children and their family's Quality of Life (QoL). The purpose of this large-scale study was to explore, in a more granular nature, the correlation between QoL measures and subjective symptoms by assessing responses to the Pediatric Urinary Incontinence (PINQ) and the Vancouver Non-neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction Elimination Syndrome (VNLUTD) questionnaires.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review extracted symptoms reported by patients with VD who completed PINQ and VNLUTD from 2018-2021. The first visit for all patients was included in this analysis. The dependent variables of interest were PINQ (N=288) and VNLUTD (N=270) scores. Independent variables were examined in a univariate model, and independent variables significant at the 0.1 alpha were used for multiple linear regression models.

**Results:** The mean (SD) age was 9.6 (3.8) years old. The majority of patients were female (56%) and White (55%). PINQ and VNLUTD were statistically significantly positively correlated ( $r=0.3822$ ,  $p<.0001$ ) indicating that higher PINQ scores are associated with higher VNLUTD scores. Whites and patients with dysuria had lower PINQ scores (Table 1). Higher ages were associated with lower VNLUTD scores. Males, Whites, patients without constipation, and patients without UTIs had lower VNLUTD scores (Table 2).

**Conclusions:** This study was internally validated as evidenced by the expected significant positive correlation between PINQ and VNLUTD, and offers one of largest studies to date. These surveys work well together to capture QoL in the pediatric population. This study determined which variables impacted PINQ and VNLUTD scores, and revealed that addressing modifiable variables such as constipation and UTI symptoms may have a greater impact on improving QoL, while dysuria may be less efficacious. Non-modifiable variables such as race and gender open discussion regarding social determinants of QoL.

### **Recent publications**

1. Ates KM, Vaizer RP, Newton DC, Hao S, Mahoney K, Morganstern BA. Rare case: Ureteropelvic junction complication presenting with bilateral labial abscesses and urosepsis requiring nephrectomy. *Urol Case Rep.* 2021 May 7;37:101705. doi: 10.1016/j.eucr.2021.101705. PMID: 34036047; PMCID: PMC8136439.
2. Nelwan D, Mount C, Morganstern B, Chan JT. Infant With Severe Penoscrotal Hypospadias: A Complex Case of Genital Ambiguity and Mistaken Identity. *Cureus.* 2021 May 23;13(5):e15191. doi: 10.7759/cureus.15191. PMID: 34178511; PMCID: PMC8218553.
3. Vaizer RP, Benton JZ, Morganstern BA. First Case of a Term Male Born with Aphallia and Complete Urethral Atresia. *Urology.* 2021 Oct;156:e127-e130. doi: 10.1016/j.urology.2021.05.038. Epub 2021 Jun 1. PMID: 34087315.

### **Biography**

Rachel E Kaufman is a third-year medical student at The Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University mentored by Pediatric urologist Dr. Bradley A Morganstern, Chief of Pediatric Urology at Augusta University. His research interests include Health-Related Quality of Life issues and novel investigations in obtaining functional data from sonographic images in Pediatric urology conditions.

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**The effect of stress urinary incontinence on depression, anxiety, and quality of life in men: A systematic review**

**Joseph McDaniels**

Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA

**Statement of the Problem:** Radical prostatectomy, the mainstay of surgical treatment for men with localized prostate cancer, is associated with high rates of postoperative urinary incontinence. Men who have undergone prostatectomy and experience postoperative stress urinary incontinence (SUI) may be at a higher risk of depression and suicide. The objective of this study is to review existing literature to investigate the relationship between depression, suicidality, and SUI in men to allow clinicians to identify at-risk patients and to provide education and mental health resources to reduce the risk of incontinence-associated depression and suicide.

**Methodology and Theoretical Orientation:** We reviewed current literature pertaining to SUI in males and depression, suicide, and quality of life.

**Findings:** Men with urinary incontinence are at an increased risk for depression (14.9% versus 8.4%,  $p<0.001$ ) and anxiety (26.6% versus 18%,  $p<0.001$ ) compared to age-matched controls. Additionally, men who report features of both SUI and urge urinary incontinence (UUI) were more likely to screen positive for depression (42.1% versus 12.7%,  $p<0.001$ ) and anxiety (47.2% versus 12.7%,  $p<0.001$ ) than men with only SUI. These trends remain consistent when looking specifically at men post-prostatectomy. Men post-prostatectomy with moderate to severe lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) reported higher rates of mental distress than males with no or minimal symptoms (OR 4.79, 95% CI [1.04, 22.03]).

**Conclusion & Significance:** Few studies have been performed to assess the effects of incontinence on mental health in men. The studies found in this review indicate poor mental health outcomes in males with SUI alone or with SUI plus other LUTS. Only two studies were found to assess SUI/LUTS and mental health outcomes specifically in men post-prostatectomy. Clinicians should be aware of the toll that incontinence can take on the mental health of their patients and should screen and counsel accordingly.

**Recent publications**

1. Coyne KS, Sexton CC, Thompson CL, et al. The prevalence of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) in the USA, the UK and Sweden: results from the Epidemiology of LUTS (EpiLUTS) study. *BJU Int.* 2009;104(3):352-360
2. Hampson LA, Suskind AM, Breyer BN, et al. Understanding the Health Characteristics and Treatment Choices of Older Men with Stress Urinary Incontinence. *Urology.* 2021;154:281-287.
3. Sims J, Browning C, Lundgren-Lindquist B, Kendig H. Urinary incontinence in a community sample of older adults: prevalence and impact on quality of life. *Disabil Rehabil.* 2011;33(15-16):1389-1398.

**Biography**

Joseph McDaniels is a medical student interested in translational research in urology. He has a passion for improving health outcomes for surgical patients across cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. His current interests are primarily in identifying and addressing health disparities in patients diagnosed with urological malignancies and in addressing social and mental health after surgery. His ongoing research involves analysis of several outcome parameters after bladder cancer treatment in a largely African-American population as well as research in depression and suicidality of patients diagnosed with bladder and prostate cancer.

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**Voiding dysfunction in pediatric patients: Quality of life is more than the sum of its symptoms**

**Rachel E Kaufman**

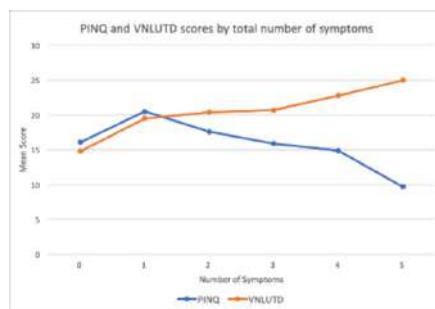
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA

**Introduction/Background:** Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction (LUTD) significantly impacts children and their families emotionally and psychologically. The purpose of this study was to explore the correlation between objective quality of life and severity measures with subjective reports of symptom quantity by assessing responses to the Pediatric Urinary Incontinence Questionnaire (PINQ), which assesses quality of life in children with LUTD, and the Vancouver Non-neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction Elimination Syndrome (VNLUTD) questionnaire, which quantifies symptom severity.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review was conducted to extract symptoms reported by patients who presented with LUTD from 2018-2021 and completed PINQ and VNLUTD. The relationship between PINQ and VNLUTD was evaluated using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. Associations between number of symptoms and PINQ (N=288) and VNLUTD (N=270) scores were assessed using Kruskal-Wallis tests. A Dwass, Steel, Critchlow-Fligner multiple comparison procedure was used to assess for multiple comparisons. Symptoms evaluated included constipation, dysuria, hematuria, urinary tract infection, urgency, and frequency.

**Results:** The mean (SD) age was 9.6 (3.8) years old. The majority of patients were female (56%) and White (55%). PINQ and VNLUTD scores were positively correlated ( $\rho=0.3822$ ,  $p<.0001$ ). Results of a Kruskal-Wallis test showed that while PINQ scores differed across total number of symptoms ( $p=0.0167$ ), after adjusting for multiple comparisons, there were no statistically significant differences found. Results of a Kruskal-Wallis test showed that VNLUTD scores differed across total number of symptoms ( $p=0.0064$ ). After adjusting for multiple comparisons, total symptoms equal to 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 had significantly higher VNLUTD scores than 0 symptoms ( $p=0.0400$ ,  $0.0241$ ,  $0.0411$ ,  $0.0205$ , respectively).

**Conclusions:** This study was internally valid as evidenced by the statistically significant positive correlation between PINQ and VNLUTD. However, while subjective symptom quantity showed a statistically significant positive correlation with symptom severity, it did not have a statistically significant correlation with quality of life scores. Thus, in order to maximize effective treatment for pediatric patients with LUTD, it may be necessary address patients and families globally rather than by individual symptomatology in addition to working with parents and patients to help them understand that the condition is multifactorial.



**Figure 1:** PINQ and VNLUTD Scores by total number of Symptoms

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**Recent publications**

1. Ates KM, Vaizer RP, Newton DC, Hao S, Mahoney K, Morganstern BA. Rare case: Ureteropelvic junction complication presenting with bilateral labial abscesses and urosepsis requiring nephrectomy. *Urol Case Rep.* 2021 May 7;37:101705. doi: 10.1016/j.eucr.2021.101705. PMID: 34036047; PMCID: PMC8136439.
2. Nelwan D, Mount C, Morganstern B, Chan JT. Infant With Severe Penoscrotal Hypospadias: A Complex Case of Genital Ambiguity and Mistaken Identity. *Cureus.* 2021 May 23;13(5):e15191. doi: 10.7759/cureus.15191. PMID: 34178511; PMCID: PMC8218553.
3. Vaizer RP, Benton JZ, Morganstern BA. First Case of a Term Male Born with Aphallia and Complete Urethral Atresia. *Urology.* 2021 Oct;156:e127-e130. doi: 10.1016/j.urology.2021.05.038. Epub 2021 Jun 1. PMID: 34087315.

**Biography**

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## Renal tumors: New challenges in office diagnostics

**Săndulescu Andrei Stefan, Stoica Lucian Eugen**

UroScan Hospital, Romania

In recent years, the percentage of early-stage renal tumors is increasing due to the population's accessibility to medical services, screening tests and high-performance ultrasonography. More and more types of tumors are without clinical expression and symptoms, accidental discovery being extremely frequent. Ultrasound and computed tomography remain the standards, whereas Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), although having a high sensitivity for detection of renal masses, is used primarily for staging the inferior vena cava and the vascular variants of tumor invasion. The purpose of this study is to present options for the incidental discovery of renal tumors during the urological examination.

**Methods of work:** Analysis of patients who presented themselves for a routine urological check-up and who following the ultrasonographic examination, were found to have renal tumors that were later confirmed by CT.

**Findings:** Increased presence of renal tumors without clinical symptoms during routine check-ups in recent years without known risk factors.

**Conclusions and meanings:** The importance of complete examination of the patient accompanied by ultrasonography of all urological patients.

### Recent publications

1. Roussel E, Capitanio U, Kutikov A, Oosterwijk E, Pedrosa I, Rowe SP, Gorin MA. Novel Imaging Methods for Renal Mass Characterization: A Collaborative Review. *Eur Urol.* 2022 May;81(5):476-488.
2. Patard JJ. Incidental renal tumours. *Curr Opin Urol.* 2009 Sep;19(5):454-8.
3. Rossi SH, Hsu R, Blick C, Goh V, Nathan P, Nicol D, Fleming S, Sweeting M, Wilson EC, Stewart GD. Meta-analysis of the prevalence of renal cancer detected by abdominal ultrasonography. *Br J Surg.* 2017 May;104(6):648-659.

### Biography

Săndulescu Andrei Stefan is a urologist with expertise in ultrasonography, urological and oncological surgery in the private sector in Romania, Craiova, Dolj County.

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**Accepted Abstracts**



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### The andes of bladder stones

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<sup>2</sup>Dayton VA Medical Center, USA

**Introduction:** Primary hyperparathyroidism and Bladder Outlet Obstruction (BOO) are distinct conditions associated with bladder stone formation. We present a case wherein 13 cm of bladder stones accumulated in a short interval because of an anatomical and metabolic derangement.

**Case Presentation:** 60-year-old male with a history of Chronic Urinary Retention (CUR) secondary to BOO due to an enlarged prostate with negative biopsy. His CUR was managed with Clean Intermittent Catheterization (CIC), and he was lost to follow up. The patient presented with difficulty performing CIC. Cystourethroscopy and Kidney, Ureter, Bladder (KUB) xray revealed 13 cm in conglomeration bladder stones which were absent on imaging 30 months prior. Bloodwork revealed calcium >12 and elevated PTH. The patient also exhibited depression, constipation, and abdominal pain related to hypercalcemia. Sestamibi parathyroid scan had increased uptake within a parathyroid adenoma. Osteoporosis was confirmed on DEXA. He underwent an open benign suprapubic 92 gm prostatectomy plus evacuation of 254 gm calcium phosphate bladder stones. The parathyroid adenoma was removed 3 weeks later. On follow up, the patient was voiding well with normal calcium level and resolution of symptoms.

**Conclusion:** Large bladder stones secondary to a combination of anatomic and metabolic derangements are rare. This case highlights and emphasizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to care.



Figure 1. KUB with 13 cm in conglomeration bladder stones at presentational

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**The first experiences with the new surgical robotic platform Revo-i. The future of robotics is bright**

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<sup>1</sup>Medius Kliniken Urology Department, Ostfildern, Germany

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<sup>3</sup>Trakya University Urology Department, Edirne, Turkey

Robot-assisted surgery has become during the last 20 years a widespread treatment option in urology. The increasing robotic market was predominated during this time by only one this factor has led to the rising robotic platform, disposables and maintenance costs.

However, in recent years, other new robotic platforms have emerged in the market as potential competitors which are providing comparable technical features with the market leader. Nevertheless, they are aiming to make robotic surgery cost-effective and financially possible for a wider patient spectrum.

One of the new robotic platforms for clinical use on the market is the Revo-i surgical platform, developed by Meere Company Inc, Republic of Korea.

Since it was approved by the Korea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA) in 2017, Revo-i (model MSR-5100) has been safely and successfully applied to various clinical applications in Korean Hospitals for general surgery, urology, gynaecology and ENT operations.

Revo-i, the first surgical robot in Central Asia, was installed in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2022. The technical and bedside nursing teams were trained in Korea and Uzbekistan by the specialized Revo trainer and technical engineers with the Revo-Sim virtual training module. The robot has been successfully used by experienced surgeons for 59 different urological cases, i.e. prostate and kidney cancer cases with achieved optimal outcomes.

The first operations were mentored by an experienced surgeon and supported with a mentoring system in the operation theatre.

We provide here in this video-based presentation the outcomes of the surgeries and a brief description of this advanced platform and describe the setup and techniques for urologic operations in our initial experience in Tashkent.

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## The Therapeutic ladder - A Clinician and a patient perspective

**Vaughan Daniels-Hepnar, Bothmann T, Kurek A and Perelman J**  
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**Introduction:** The therapeutic ladder has been well described in literature by many organizations over many years but rarely is the point of entry and the number of steps for the patient examined. It is reported anecdotally that the millennial would rather have a shortened therapeutic ladder.

**Materials and Methods:** A review of therapeutic ladders across the disease areas of pain management, acne vulgaris, Erectile Dysfunction and benign prostatic hyperplasia and original research of a qualitative phone interview of 24 dermatologists in the UK and Germany.

**Results:** A shortened therapeutic ladder will create benefits for the patient who wants to return to normal daily activity as soon as possible disease free and it will help in their mental health and quality of life at the same time potentially saving healthcare costs in both time and treatments and probably help the wider economy

**Conclusion:** Further research is needed into the wider healthcare economics of changing the way we address the therapeutic ladder. Shortening the patient pathway may give great benefits to the healthcare systems, healthcare funders, the wider economy and the patients overall long-term health outcomes.

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**Acute scrotal pain and Covid-19 in a busy acute hospital in the UK**

**Mohamed Ibrahim**

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**Introduction:** Published reports highlighted an association between recent COVID-19 infection and testicular pain and infertility.

**Aim:** To assess the effect of the disease on our surgical practice & scrotal exploration.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed the clinical presentation and surgical outcomes of all patients with sudden onset acute testicular pain who presented to our acute hospital in the period between Jan 2018 till Jan 2022.

**Results:** Total of 335 patients presented with acute scrotum required exploration between 2018-2022 and divided into 2 categories: [category 1] prior to the start of covid-19 pandemic and [category 2] after the pandemic “ $\geq 2020$ ”. The analyses revealed a 13% increase in the number of presentations, though this was not statistically significant [ $P = 0.09$ ]

The sub-analysis of category 2 looked at the relationship of covid-19 status at the time of presentation with acute pain. This showed a significant correlation between covid-19 +ve status and pain with negative exploration [ $P = 0.0263$ ].

	<b>Torsion</b>	<b>No Torsion</b>	
Covid +ve	14	66	80
Covid -ve	32	67	99
	46	133	179
Fisher exact analysis test $P = 0.0263$			

**Table 1:** Sub-analysis of the covid-19 status at the time of presentation after 2019. Fisher exact test

Analyzing the data found to be statistically significant of value of 0.0263 where the result is significant at  $P < 0.05$

**Conclusion:** Our data show a strong correlation between the covid-19 pandemic and acute scrotal pain that may indicate viral-induced orchitis.

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