

Posterior urethral valves – diagnosis and primary treatment considerations

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Abstract

Posterior Urethral Valves - PUV are the most common cause of bladder outflow obstruction in male infants, representing about 10% of prenatally detected hydronephrosis. The medical records of 27 patients, admitted and treated in the pediatric urology department of "Maria Sklodowska Curie" Emergency Hospital for Children, Bucharest, between 2001 – 2010 were reviewed. The aim of the study is to discuss the endoscopic valve ablation as the first choice treatment of PUV. Twenty-six, (96%) of our patients are alive, having now different ages, with serum creatinine levels <0.8 mg / dl, at successive controls. One patient, 1 year 11 months old, died in the pediatric nephrology department after right nephrectomy and left ureterostomy, 9 months before. Mortality rate in PUV patients has significantly decreased in the last 30 years, from 50% to less than 10% of patients. Nonetheless, morbidity related to PUV still represents a heavy burden for these patients and their doctors. Urodynamic studies help in understanding the pathophysiology of valve bladder and its effect on the urinary tract at long term follow-up.

Key words: posterior urethral valves, obstruction, prenatally diagnosis, endoscopic valve ablation, vesico-ureteral reflux, urodynamics, chronic renal failure

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