

# Symptomatic Nephroptosis (SN) Causes the Loin Pain and Haematuria Syndrome (LPHS)

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**Keywords:** LPHS; Nephroptosis; Nephropexy; IVU; RGP; Sympathetic denervation

**Abbreviations:** LPHS: Loin Pain Hematuria Syndrome; IVU: Intravenous Urography; RGP: Retrograde Pyelography

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## Letter to Editor

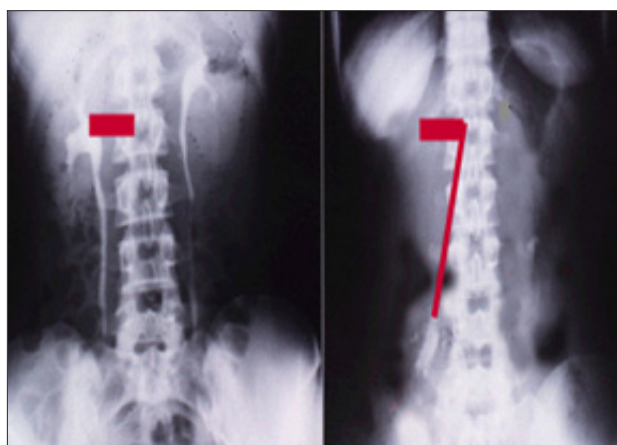
The objective of this letter is to report recent advances on the diagnosis and therapy of the loin pain hematuria syndrome (LPHS). The patho-aetiological link of LPHS with symptomatic nephroptosis (SN) is a novel discovery of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that was first preliminary reported in 2002 [1]. The link was confirmed in 2016 in an article that précised the exact patho-aetiology of LPHS; ischemic nephritis and sympathetic neuropathy of SN. It also advanced a 100% curative therapy for LPHS namely; the renal sympathetic denervation and nephropexy (RSD&N) surgery [2]. Symptomatic nephroptosis has been known for centuries [3] but was disparaged [4] >70 years ago and omitted from all textbooks. Hence it is a forgotten disease. The loin pain hematuria syndrome was first reported in 1967 [5] and has remained without any effective therapy till now [6-8].



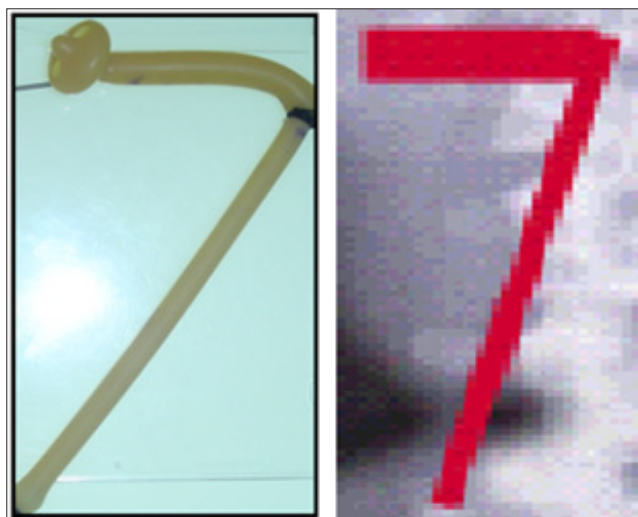
**Figure 1:** Compares IVU supine with IVU-E films shows bilateral nephroptosis of 3 right and 2 left vertebrae. Unilateral nephroptosis is the commonest affecting only the right side.

The discovery of SN causing LPHS and the successful curable therapy are based on a prospective cohort 10 years study [1,2] of 190 patients diagnosed with SN among whom 36(18.9%) patients developed LPHS. Two new signs that demonstrate renal pedicle stretch of SN (Figure 1) causes vessel stenosis and ischemic nephritis as evidenced by the new IVU7 sign and tube stretch hypothesis (Figure 2 & 3). These signs demonstrate that stretching of renal artery in pedicle at erect posture causes vessels stenosis, diminished blood flow and induces ischemic nephritis and sympathetic neuropathy. This is illustrated by producing the same effect on stretching a rubber catheter tube causing stenosis (reduced diameter) that diminishes lumen flow. Lumen flow of the blood vessel or catheter is completely obliterated

when stretch of more than double the length of vessel or tube is accompanied by rotation twist. Ischemic nephritis affects the renal medulla long before the cortex, particularly eroding the medullary papillae creating fistulae between renal blood vessels and the collecting system explaining the venous shunt causing the hematuria. This is demonstrated only on retrograde pyelography (RGP) (Figure 4 & 5). So, the diagnosis of SN is only possible on intravenous urography (IVU) with erect film (IVU-E) on which the IVU7 sign demonstrates renal drop and pedicle stretch (Figure 1 & 2) and RGP that demonstrates medullary damage (Figure 4 & 5) while all other imaging including CAT and MRI are useless being feasible only on supine posture.



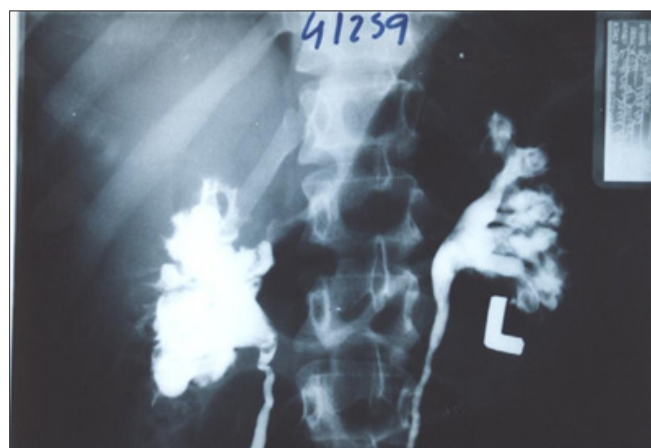
**Figure 2:** Shows renal pedicle mapped on a supine IVU film (Horizontal line segment, red) and the erect film (diagonal line segment, red) producing the figure of 7 where the renal pedicle is stretched to 3 times its normal length, causing vessels stenosis, reduction/cessation of blood flow and severe renal ischemia and sympathetic neuropathy.



**Figure 3:** Compares the rubber tube stretch with IVU7 sign which demonstrate that stretch of a tube or artery causes stenosis (reduced diameter) thus reducing lumen flow.



**Figure 4:** Shows RGP with multiple pyelocalyctais with erosion of medullary papillae and contrast leakage into veins (papillary fistulae connecting the collecting urinary system to veins i.e. venous shunt which is the site of hematuria)



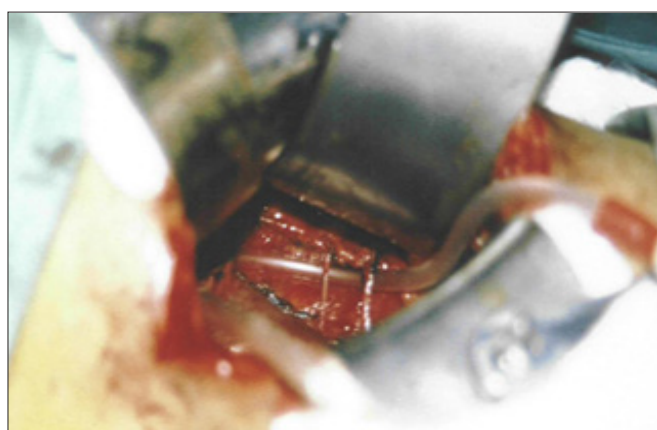
**Figure 5:** Shows advanced severe renal medullary papillary destruction in chronic long standing LPHS more severe on the right side in a long standing SN patient

Open surgical treatment was used in 28 patients suffering from severe LPHS complicating SN [2]; 10 had simple nephropexy and 18 had RSD&N. Four of the 10 patients treated with simple nephropexy had recurrence of LPHS while those who had RSD&N were all 100% cured of LPHS. Nephropexy [9] alone is inadequate treatment. Also renal sympathetic denervation alone is ineffective [8,10]. The two procedures must be done together and sympathetic denervation must be done on the renal pedicle, not anywhere else as chemical and lumbar sympathectomy do not work [8]. The evidence that repeated stretch of renal pedicle of SN causes ischemic focal infarctions of the kidney cortex at an advanced stage is shown in (Figure 6) as a result of the severe vessels stenosis (Figure 7) due to chronic stretch of the renal pedicle. Vessel stenosis is initially

recurrent and intermittent occurring on erect posture but with chronicity of the disease it becomes fixed and permanent stenosis [5] as shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 6:** Shows an explored right kidney of chronic LPHS patient which is cyanotic with focal infarctions



**Figure 7:** shows an explored right renal pedicle after denervation of the LPHS patient shown in Figure 6 with severe stenosis of artery and vein (effect of chronic repeated pedicle stretch). The Nelaton tube is approximately the size of a normal renal artery

Based on the above outlined discoveries on the diagnosis and therapy of LPHS it is strongly recommended that all concerned Physicians, Urologists and Nephrologists should implement it and report their own experience. It is also highly recommended that SN should be restored into modern textbooks of Surgery, Urology and Nephrology for which IVU-E and RGP are the recommended investigations making use of the new IVU7 sign to assess pedicle stretch and vessel stenosis inducing renal ischemia and sympathetic neuropathy causing LPHS. It is certain that this will help thousands of young patients worldwide, mostly females in their twenties and thirties, to get rid of their severe pain and hematuria of LPHS making their life miserable thus restoring their wellbeing, comfort and happiness again.

### Conflict of Interest

None declared by the author. Funds received for the investigation and reporting the article: None.

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