Complications of Ultrasound Guided Renal Biopsy in 100 Children: Experience at a Tertiary Care Hospital

Mohammed Maruf-Ul-Quader1*
Susmita Biswas1
Mitra Datta2
Muhammad Jabeen Bin Chowdhury2
Salina Haque2
Kazi Mohammad Moinuddin3
Sunanda Sen3
Sawrav Deb Bappy2

1Department of Pediatric Nephrology
Chittagong Medical College
Chattogram, Bangladesh.
2Department of Pediatrics
Chittagong Medical College
Chattogram, Bangladesh.
3Department of Radiology and Imaging
Chittagong Medical College
Chattogram, Bangladesh.

Abstract

**Background:** Use of automated device with ultrasound guidance in renal biopsy has improved the adequacy and reduced the complication. Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) is a tertiary teaching hospital where Pediatric Nephrology Department started its journey on 11th December 2013. Since then renal biopsy is going on. Aim of the study is to see the rate of adequacy and complication of renal biopsy along the course of years.

**Materials and methods:** This is a retrospective study carried on 100 consecutive ultrasonography guided percutaneous renal biopsy from lower pole of left native kidney performed by the pediatric nephrologist. All hospitalized children aged up to 12 years admitted since 2014 were included. Spring loaded automated biopsy needle was used in 88% cases and Trucut biopsy needle in 12% cases.

**Results:** Most of the patients were aged between 1 to 10 years with male female ratio 0.9:1. Midazolam was used for sedation in all patients except one who needed general anesthesia. Light microscopy and Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF) report was made but no facility for electron microscopy. Gross hematuria was experienced in 5% cases and one case needed blood transfusion. There was one case with blood clot in urinary bladder causing dysuria but no urinary retention was observed. Post biopsy perinephric hematomas developed in 4 cases. Number of needle passes to obtain adequate biopsy material in native kidney was ≤3 in 78% cases. Adequate specimen was found in 95% cases.

**Conclusion:** Percutaneous renal biopsy can be done adequately and safely in resource poor setup if pediatric nephrologist and radiologists are available.

**Key words:** Biopsy; Hematuria; Hematoma.

INTRODUCTION

Kidney biopsy is an invasive but irreplaceable procedure for the nephrologists1. Despite introduction of more advanced molecular biology, techniques, renal biopsy is still a gold standard tool for determining diagnosis, prognosis and treatment2. The first closed or percutaneous renal biopsy was reported by Ball in 19343. Clinical use of this technique routinely introduced in the 1950s. Thereafter advancements have been made in biopsy technique to improve diagnostic yield while minimizing complication. In 1962 the use of radiological images was introduced for the localization of the kidney, later replaced by the ultrasound real-time imaging4. In renal biopsy, use of automated device and ultrasound guidance improved the adequacy and reduced the complication5. Although minor consequences occur more frequently but major complication occur rarely. The success of percutaneous renal biopsy is determined both by the adequacy of the tissue and the incidence of complications. Gross or macroscopic hematuria is the most frequent important major complication if it necessitates blood transfusion, surgical intervention/embolization or prolonged hospital stay6,7.
Infection after kidney biopsy has been described in some case series, but if sterile technique is used and unless bowel perforation occur, it is rare. For this reason, careful evaluation of risks and benefits must be taken into account, and all measures to minimize the risk of complications must be observed.

Complications of renal biopsy tend to vary from center to center and are also affected by several clinical and technical factors. Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) is a tertiary teaching hospital where Department of Pediatric Nephrology started its journey on 11th December 2013. Since then renal biopsy is going on. So aim of the study is to see the frequency of complications and adequacy of renal biopsy along the course of years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
This is a retrospective study carried on 100 consecutive ultrasound guided percutaneous renal biopsy from lower pole of left native kidney since 2014 by pediatric nephrologist with a 16 needles under adequate sedation. All were hospitalized cases aged upto 12 years. Biopsy procedures were performed in the Radiology and Imaging Department of CMCH after taking proper consent. I/V cannula was kept in situ for emergency medication. Maximum aseptic precaution was maintained and 2% lignocaine was used for local anesthesia. All biopsies were done under oral antibiotic coverage as total aseptic procedure was difficult to maintain. Pressure dressing was applied on biopsy site with binder for adequate hemostasis. Vitals were followed up for a period of 24 hours after the procedure. Three consecutive urine samples were observed in clear plastic jar to identify the presence of gross hematuria. Paracetamol suppository was given to every patient to reduce pain and advised as required for further pain management. Next day, routine post biopsy ultrasonography was done to evaluate the presence of subcapsular bleeding or perinephric hematoma. Complications were categorized as major or minor. Major complications included need for blood transfusion, surgical intervention like nephrectomy, angiembolization, bladder obstruction and death related to the procedure. Minor complications were defined as transient gross hematuria or minor hematoma reported by follow up USG that resolved spontaneously and did not require any transfusions or surgical intervention. Adequacy of renal tissue was defined as renal tissue containing ≥5 glomeruli and histopathologist being able to reach a diagnosis based on the sampled tissue. Information regarding name, age, sex, weight of the patient, indication for biopsy, type of sedation used, size of biopsy needle, name of the pediatric nephrologist, radiologist, assisting doctor and nurse, number of needle passes, complication details (If any) post biopsy USG findings, duration of hospital stay.

RESULTS
A total 100 ultrasound-guided renal biopsy was performed during the course of six consecutive years. Demographic data (Table I) showing age of maximum patients (65%) ranged 1-10 years. Only two patients were below 2 years and youngest one was 8 months old (Figure 1). Sex distribution showing M:F-0.9:1. Midazolam was used for sedation in all patients except one needed general anesthesia. Spring loaded automated biopsy needle was used in 88% cases and 12% cases were done by Trucut biopsy needle. Frequency of renal biopsy during the course of time since 2014 was depicted in (Figure 2). Majority of the procedures were performed in the year 2019. Adequate renal tissue was obtained for diagnosis in 95% cases. In 78% cases maximum number of needle passes to kidney was ≤3 to obtain adequate biopsy material. The major complication rate was 2% and minor complication 8% (Table II).

Table 1: Age and sex distribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 year</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10 year</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10 year</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male: Female</td>
<td>0.9:1</td>
</tr>
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Figure 1: Youngest one- 8 months old.
which resolved spontaneously without any intervention. A systematic review and meta-analysis by Varnell C D et al on 23 studies of 5504 biopsies showed the incidence of hematoma after biopsy 11%-18%. Kersnik L et al and other authors reported that the majority of hematomas are less than 2 cm, and about 1%-2% are symptomatic. Norwegian study by Tondel C et al observed higher frequency of hematoma in children (8.1%) in post biopsy routine ultrasonographic evaluation of the 715 children, one needed transfusion and another needed embolization/surgical intervention14,15,6. They also observed post-biopsy hematomas greater than 2 cm is likely to have clinical significance. Printza N et al also reported 11% subcapsular hematoma and none of them needed blood transfusion16.

Reported incidence of bladder obstruction after renal biopsy in children was 0.3%2. In this study, one patient developed dysuria due to blood clot in urinary bladder which was treated by bladder irrigation and there was no retention. But Franke M et al studied 295 renal biopsy and reported one case with blood clot in urinary bladder which needed cystoscopic retrieval of blood clot17.

We recorded £3 passes to obtain an adequate biopsy material in 78% cases similar to standard (£3 pass in 80%) although there was no dissecting microscope in our procedure room11,18. Hussain F et al achieved the standard for the number of needle passes in 86.4% cases10. Whereas the Norwegian study and Sinha R. et al reported adequate biopsy material by £2 attempt in 85% and 72 cases respectively6,7.

BAPN standard for adequacy is >95%. Hussain F et al achieved the adequacy in 97.5% cases keeping the cut off number of glomeruli ³10 or limited number of glomeruli using that clear diagnosis made by the histopathologist11,10. This study set the adequacy of renal tissue as renal tissue containing ³5 glomeruli and histopathologist being able to reach a diagnosis based on the sampled tissue9,10. With this, adequacy was achieved in 95% cases. Printza N et al showed the adequacy rate 97.7% and they set the adequacy at the glomeruli no 5-1016.

**LIMITATIONS**

i) Small sample size.

ii) Light microscope during procedure was not available to ensure glomerulus in procedure room.

iii) No facility for electron microscopy.

**CONCLUSION**

Percutaneous renal biopsy can be done adequately and safely in resource poor setup if pediatric nephrologist and radiologist are available.

**DISCLOSURE**

All the authors declared no competing interest.
REFERENCES