

Acute Kidney Injury: Epidemiology, Pathophysiology, Aetiology, Treatment.

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ABSTRACT:

Acute kidney injury is a clinical syndrome. Recent updates in clinica research will be of his syndrome and in the elucidation of that pathogenesis. With this knowledge we will be able to conduct more accurate epidemiologic studies the effort to gain a better understanding of the impact of its syndrome. We will also study the aetiology of the syndrome. AKI is a syndrome that rarely has the sole and distinct pathophysiology. Recent evidence, of the basic science and clinical research, is beginning to change our views for AKI from a single organ failure syndrome to a syndrome where the kidney plays an active role in the progress of multi-organ dysfunction. In this review we provide the most recent updates in the epidemiology, aetiology, pathophysiology, sign and symptoms, tests and finally treatment of AKI.

KEYWORDS: Elucidation, pathogenesis, syndrome.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a term that has recently replaced the term ARF. AKI is defined as a abrupt (within hours) decrease in kidney function, which encompasses both injury (structural damage) and its impairment (loss of function). It is the syndrome that rarely has sole of distinct pathophysiology. Many patients with AKI having a mixed aetiology where complication recognition and treatment. Furthermore a syndrome is common among patients without critical illness and it is essential that health care professionals, particularly those without specialisation A renal disorders, detect it easily.

The concept of Acute Renal Failure (ARF) has undergone significant re-examination in recent years. Traditionally, emphasis was given the most severe acute reduction in kidney function, as manifested by severe azotaemia and often by oliguria or anuria. However, the recent evidence suggests that even relatively mild injury of kidney function manifested by small changes in a serum

creatinine (sCr) and/or urine output (UO), is a predictor of the serious clinical consequences.

Classification of the AKI includes pre-renal AKI, acute post-renal obstructive nephropathy and its intrinsic acute kidney diseases. Of these, only 'intrinsic' AKI represents the true kidney disease, while pre-renal and post-renal AKI are the consequence of extra-renal diseases leading to the decreased glomerular filtration rate (GFR). If these pre- and the post-renal conditions persist, they will eventually evolve to renal cellular damage and hence the intrinsic renal disease.

EPIDEMIOLOGY:

The lack of standard definition of the syndrome had the great impact in the reported incidence and clinical significance of AKI and its true form of impact is not well known. The incidence varies, depending on the patient population and geographical area studied. Large differences are observed in world that causes of AKI between developing and developed countries.

In the urban areas the developing countries and developed countries the main causes of AKI in hospital acquired (renal ischaemia, sepsis and nephrotoxic drugs) while in the rural areas it is more commonly the consequence of community acquired disease (diarrhoea, dehydration, infectious diseases, animal venoms etc.). In other countries AKI especially in developing countries is also a major problem that relates with the true knowledge of its impact in many parts of the world.

On the other hand community AKI is usually uncommon although a recent study estimated its incidence at 4.3% among all hospital admissions. However even this incidence remains an underestimate of the true impact of the community acquired AKI due to non-referral patients to hospitals.

In the recent large scale epidemiologic study, the incidence of AKI in the hospitalised children in the

US was found to occur in 3.9 per 1000 admissions. The majority of AKI cases in children are secondary of the volume responsive mechanisms (e.g. diarrhoea and the renal hypoperfusion after surgery) and secondary to sepsis.

Multiple studies have shown that AKI is the elderly (usually defined as older than 65 years) is increasingly common and there is age-dependent relationship between AKI and older age. This has been attributed in the part of to anatomic and the physiologic changes in the ageing kidney and in part to various comorbidities - i.e. hypertension, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease (CKD) - that may require procedures and the medications that act as kidney stressors and alter renal haemodynamics or nephrotoxic.

Several studies have also shown that AKI is the associated with short and long term adverse outcomes. These have been reviewed recently in updates.

AETIOLOGY:

There are numerous Of the causes of AKI, mainly related to the focal mismatch between oxygen and nutrient delivery (because of impaired microcirculation) to the nephrons and increased energy demands (due to the cellular stress). For many years that diagnosis and management of AKI was based on the concept of classification to the three main categories: pre-renal, intrinsic and post-renal.

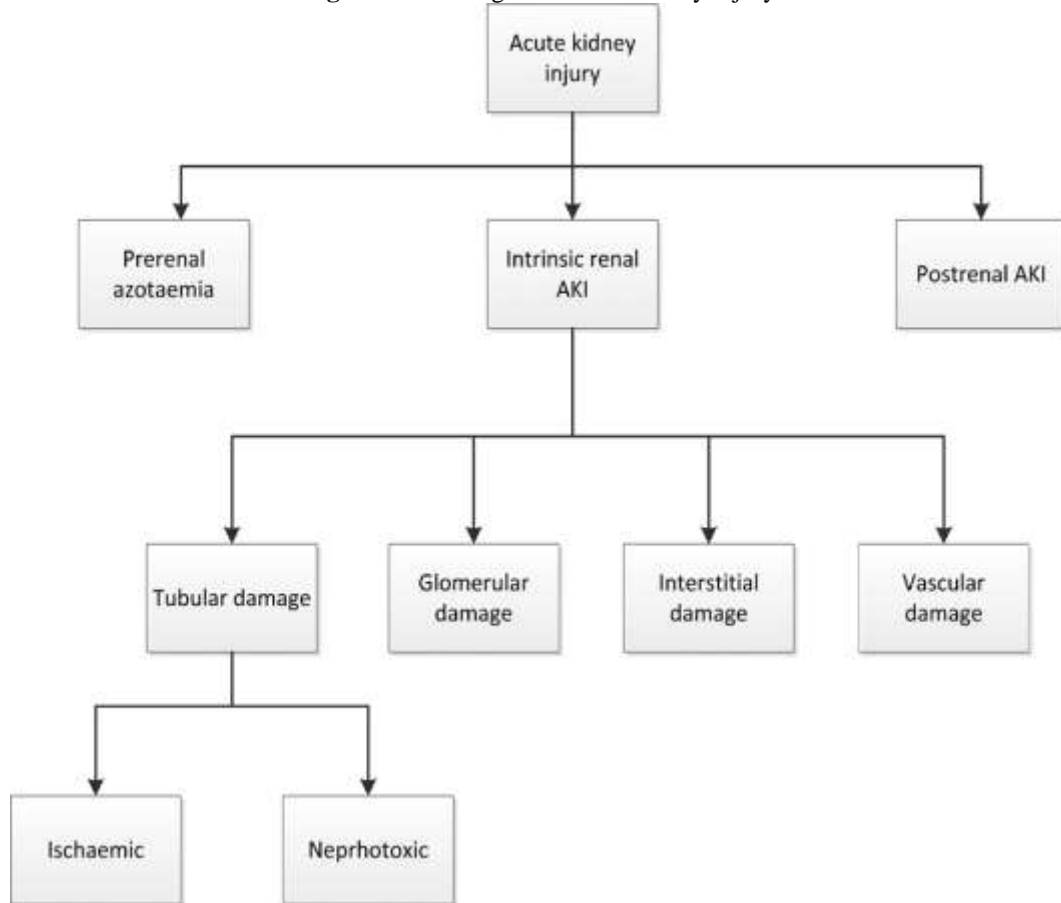
➤ **Pre-renal AKI**, renal hypoperfusion leads to an decreased GFR (without damage to the renal parenchyma), as an adaptive response to the various extra-renal insults. It is known as

the maintaining a normal GFR is dependent on the adequate renal perfusion of kidney. The kidneys receive up to 25% of cardiac output and thus any failure of the systematic circulating blood volume or isolated failure of the intra-renal circulation can have been a profound impact on renal perfusion.

➤ **Post-renal AKI** occurs after the acute obstruction of the urinary flow, which is intra-tubular pressure and thus decreases GFR.⁶³ In addition, acute urinary tract obstruction can lead to the impaired renal blood flow and inflammatory processes that contribute to diminished GFR. Post-renal AKI can develop if obstruction is located at any level of the urinary collection system the (from the renal tubule to urethra). In case the obstruction is above the bladder it must involve both kidneys and (or one kidney in the case of a patient with a single functioning kidney) to produce significant renal failure. However, a patient with pre-existing renal insufficiency may have AKI with obstruction of only one of kidney. Urinary obstruction may present in as anuria or intermittent urine flow (such as polyuria alternating with oliguria) but may also present as nocturia or nonoliguric AKI. Timely reversion of pre-renal or the post-renal causes usually results in prompt recovery of function, but late correction can lead to The damage.

➤ **Intrinsic renal aetiologies of AKI** can be challenging to the evaluate because of the wide variety of injuries that can occur to the kidney. Generally, four structures of its kidney are involved including **tubules, glomeruli, the interstitium, and intra-renal blood vessels.**

Figure 1. Aetiologies of acute kidney injury



PATHOPHYSIOLOGY:

Essentially AKI is the term used to describe the clinical syndrome that occurs when renal function is acutely decreased to the point that the body accumulates waste products and becomes unable to its maintain electrolyte, acid-base and water balance.

The pathophysiology of AKI is and complex. The most common cause of AKI is ischaemia, which can occur for the number of reasons. Physiological adaptations, in response to its reduction in blood flow can compensate to a certain degree, the resulting cellular injury leads to organ dysfunction. The kidney is the highly susceptible to injury related to ischaemia, resulting in vasoconstriction, endothelial injury, and activation of inflammatory processes. ischaemia compromising blood flow to the critical nephron structures present therein. Following the reduction in effective kidney perfusion, the epithelial cells are the unable to maintain adequate intracellular ATP for essential processes. This ATP-depletion leads to

cell injury and if it is an severe enough can lead to cell death by necrosis or apoptosis.

The nephron's natural function is the filter, concentrate and reabsorb many substances from the tubular lumen, and the concentration of these substances may reach toxic levels for the surrounding epithel cells. AKI is also very common in setting of sepsis. In sepsis the circulation anhyperdynamic and blood flow is altered, The pathophysiology of septic-AKI is very Complex involves inflammation, oxidative stress microvascular dysfunction and amplification of injury via secretion of cytokines by the tubular cells. The traditional classification of AKI into pre-renal, intrinsic-renal and post-renal has recently been challenged since histological diagnosis is performed very rarely and the distinction. However, these latter models are a quite extreme and are not representative of the clinical manifestations of the AKI in humans, where renal blood flow never fully stops (except in certain surgical procedures i.e. a abdominal aortic aneurysm repair) but less severe forms of low blood flow followed by the

reperfusion generally occur. The animals used in the studies are usually young and healthy but most patients developing AKI are old and with a significant comorbidities (diabetes, CKD, hypertension). Moreover in experimental animals

AKI is mono-causal while in humans is often of multiple co-existing aetiologies syndrome . A further analysis of pathophysiologic mechanisms is beyond the scope of this review paper.

Table 1. Causes of acute kidney injury

Caregory	Abnormality	Possible causes
Pre-renal	Hypovolaemia	Haemorrhage. Volume depletion. Renal fluid loss. Third space.
	Impaired cardiac function	Congestive heart failure. Acute myocardial infarction. Massive pulmonary embolism .
	Systemic vasodilatation	Anti-hypertensive medications. Gram negative bacteraemia. Cirrhosis. Anaphylaxis .
	Increased vascular resistance	Anaesthesia. Surgery. Hepatorenal syndrome. NSAID medications. Drugs that cause renal vasoconstriction .
Intrinsic	Tubular	Renal ischaemia. Endogenous toxins.
	Glomerular	Acute post-infectious glomerulonephritis. Lupus nephritis. IgA glomerulonephritis. Infective endocarditis. Goodpasture syndrome . Wegener disease.
	Interstitial	Infections. Medications.
	Vascular	Large vessels. Small vessels.
	Post-renal	Extrarenal obstructions
Intrarenal obstructions		Nephrolithiasis. Blood clots. Papillary necrosis.

SIGN & SYMPTOMS :

Signs and symptoms of acute kidney injury differ depending on the causes and may include:

- ✚ Too little urine leaving the body.
- ✚ Swelling in legs & ankles and around the eyes.
- ✚ Fatigue or tiredness.
- ✚ Shortness of breath.

- ✚ Confusion.
- ✚ Nausea.
- ✚ Seizures or come in severe cases.
- ✚ Chest pain or pressure.

In some cases, AKI causes no symptoms and is only found through tests done by doctor.

TESTS TO FIND AKI :

Depending on the causes of acute kidney injury, your doctor will run different tests if he suspects that you may have AKI. It is important that AKI is found as soon as possible because it can lead to chronic kidney injury or, even kidney failure. It may lead to heart disease or death.

The following tests may be done:

- ✦ **Measuring urine output:** your doctor will track how much urine you pass each day to find the causes of your AKI.
- ✦ **Urine test:** doctor will look at your urine to find signs of kidney failure.
- ✦ **Blood tests:** blood tests will help to find out levels of the creatinine, urea nitrogen phosphorus and potassium should be done by addition to blood tests for protein in order to look at kidney function.
- ✦ **Imaging tests:** imaging tests, such as the ultrasound, may help your doctor see your kidneys and look for anything is abnormal.
- ✦ **Kidney biopsy:** in some situations, your doctor will do the procedure where a tiny piece of your kidney is removed with the special needle, and looked at under a microscope.

TREATMENT:

Treatment for AKI usually requires you to stay in the hospital for while. Most people with acute kidney injury are already in hospital for another Diseases or reason. How long you will stay in hospital depends on the cause of your AKI and how quickly your kidneys recover. In more Of cases, dialysis may be needed to help replace kidney function until To kidneys recover. The main goal of your doctor is to treat what is causing your acute kidney injury. Your doctor will work to treat all of your symptoms and complications until your kidneys recover. After having AKI, your chances are higher for a other health problems (such as kidney disease or stroke, heart disease) or having AKI again in the future. The chances for developing kidney disease and kidney failure increase every time of AKI occurs. To protect yourself, you should follow up with your healthcare provider or doctor to keep track of your kidney function and recovery. having kidney damage and to save kidney the function are to prevent acute kidney injury or to find and treat as early as possible.

II. CONCLUSION :

AKI is an important clinical syndrome associated with the poor clinical outcomes for

hospitalised patients. Considerable advances have been made in the refining the definition of this syndrome and in the elucidation of its underlying pathophysiologic mechanisms and we studied the aetiology and also the signs and symptoms and treatment of AKI. These innovative will aid in the design of epidemiologic studies and randomised trials of the preventive and therapeutic interventions.

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