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<td>内野, 晃; 田中, 誠; 村野, 晴夫</td>
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A Case Suspected Crossed Fused Renal Ectopia

Akira Uchino, Makoto Tanaka and Haruo Kuvano
Department of Radiology, Kyushu Welfare Pension Hospital, 2-1-1, Kishinoura,
Yakatanishi-ku, Kitakyushu, 806, Japan

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Introduction

Crossed fused renal ectopia (CFRE) is usually characterized by double renal pelves and ureters which drain into both sides of the urinary bladder. We experienced a case suspected CFRE with a single ureter, an unusual variety.

Case Report

A 23-year-old man with painless macrohematuria was examined radiologically and urologically. Plain abdominal radiography revealed right renal calculi. Excretory urography showed a right hydronephrosis, but no left kidney (Fig. 1). Right retrograde pyelography revealed smooth narrowing at the right ureteropelvic junction (Fig. 2), but left ureteral orifice could not be visualized at cystoscopy.

Abdominal aortography demonstrated an anomalous right kidney and no left kidney (Fig. 3a, 3b). The right kidney was supplied by three feeding arteries, two of which arose from the abdominal aorta; the third; from the proximal end of the left common iliac artery (Fig. 3a, 4). Therefore, we diagnosed this case as crossed fused renal ectopia rather than unilateral renal agenesis.

No other congenital anomaly was found by physical and radiological examination.

Right pyeloplasty by dismembered Foley’s method was performed for the right hydronephrosis. At
Fig. 1 Excretory urography showed a right hydronephrosis, but no left kidney. The right ureter was not identified.

Fig. 2 Retrograde pyelography revealed stenosis at the right ureteropelvic junction. The left ureteral orifice could not be identified at cystoscopy.

Fig. 3a Arterial phase of abdominal aortography. The right kidney has three feeding arteries, two of which arise from the abdominal aorta; the third, from the proximal end of the left common iliac artery (arrow). There is no left renal artery.

Fig. 3b Nephrogram phase of abdominal aortography demonstrated an anomalous right kidney and no left kidney.
Fig. 4 The arterial phase of selective lower right renal arteriography shows that the lower pole of the right kidney is supplied by an artery arising from the proximal end of the left common iliac artery.


Fig. 6 Scheme of our case. Using McDonald and McClellan's classification, this case is "Unilateral fused kidney, inferior ectopia". However, crossed left ureter (dotted line) was not identified.
surgery, a single renal pelvis and a single ureter were identified.

**Discussion**

Crossed fused renal ectopia (CFRE) is a relatively rare anomaly of the urinary tract. The incidence of this anomaly has been reported to be between 1 in 2,000 and 1 in 13,000 persons, with a predominance among males. Kyrayiannis et al. identified 5 cases of CFRE among 51 patients with renal ectopia. Cook and Stephens found 6 cases of CFRE in 41 persons with fused kidneys.

McDonald and McClellan illustrated 6 types of CFRE (Fig. 5). All cases of CFRE have double pelves and ureters which drain into both sides of the urinary bladder. However, CFRE has many variations. The present case had no left ureter. Daskalakis and Bouhoutsos reported a case of crossed renal ectopia without fusion, whose ectopic kidney was supplied by an artery which arose from the proximal end of the contralateral common iliac artery. In our case, the lower pole of the "right" kidney was supplied by an anomalous artery arising from the proximal end of the "left" common iliac artery. We, therefore, concluded that the upper pole of the crossed ectopic left kidney was fused with the lower pole of the normally situated right kidney. Using McDonald and McClellan's classification, our case is "Unilateral fused kidney, inferior ectopia" (Fig. 6).

To our knowledge, only one patient of CFRE with a single uncrossed ureter has been reported. Unilateral renal agenesis may be confused with this type of CFRE on excretory urography or retrograde pyelography, and arteriography is necessary to differentiate the two.

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**References**