Allograft loss from acute Page kidney secondary to trauma after kidney transplantation

Kazuhiro Takahashi, Rohini Prashar, Krishna G Putchakayala, William J Kane, Jason E Denny, Dean Y Kim, Lauren E Malinzak

We report a rare case of allograft loss from acute Page kidney secondary to trauma that occurred 12 years after kidney transplantation. A 67-year-old Caucasian male with a past surgical history of kidney transplant presented to the emergency department at a local hospital with left lower abdominal tenderness. He recalled that his cat, which weighs 15 lbs, jumped on his abdomen 7 d prior. On physical examination, a small tender mass was noticed at the incisional site of the kidney transplant. He was producing a normal amount of urine without hematuria. His serum creatinine level was slightly elevated from his baseline. Computer tomography revealed a large subscapular hematoma around the transplant kidney. The patient was observed to have renal trauma grade II at the hospital over a period of three days, and he was finally transferred to a transplant center after his urine output significantly decreased. Doppler ultrasound demonstrated an extensive peri-allograft hypoechoic area and abnormal waveforms with absent arterial diastolic flow and a patent renal vein. Despite surgical decompression, the allograft failed to respond appropriately due to the delay in surgical intervention. This is the third reported case of allograft loss from acute Page kidney following kidney transplantation. This case reinforces that kidney care differs if the kidney is solitary or a transplant. Early recognition and aggressive treatments are mandatory, especially in a case with Doppler signs that are suggestive of compression.

Key words: Page kidney; Kidney transplantation; Trauma; Subcapsular hematoma; Doppler ultrasound
The Page kidney (PK) phenomenon occurs with compression of the kidney by a hematoma or mass, leading to arterial hypertension. More than 100 cases have been described in the literature; however, no systematic review has focused on post-transplant PK. In this case, we describe a rare case of allograft loss from PK secondary to trauma that occurred 12 years after kidney transplantation. This is the third reported case of allograft loss from PK following kidney transplantation. We describe this case alongside a review of the literature.

INTRODUCTION

The Page kidney (PK) phenomenon occurs with compression of the kidney by a hematoma or mass, leading to arterial hypertension. More than 100 cases have been described in the literature; however, no systematic review has focused on post-transplant PK. In this case, we describe a rare case of allograft loss from PK secondary to trauma that occurred 12 years after kidney transplantation. This is the third reported case of allograft loss from PK following kidney transplantation. We describe this case alongside a review of the literature.

CASE REPORT

A 67-year-old Caucasian male presented to the emergency department at a local hospital for left lower abdominal tenderness. The patient had undergone a living unrelated kidney transplant into his left iliac fossa 12 years prior due to chronic glomerulonephritis. His stable immunosuppression regimen included tacrolimus (1 mg every 12 h), mycophenolate mofetil (500 mg every 12 h), and prednisone (5 mg daily). Except for one episode of acute rejection a month after kidney transplantation, he had been doing well with a baseline serum creatinine level of 2.0 mg/dL. On arrival, his body temperature was 36.6 °C, blood pressure was 163/54 mmHg, and pulse was 61 beats/min. He reported that he had been active until the day before without noticing any injuries, but he recalled his cat, weighing 15 lbs, jumped on his abdomen seven days prior. On physical examination, his abdomen was soft and flat without rebound or guarding, except for a small tender mass noticed at the incisional site of the kidney transplant. His hemoglobin was 7.1 g/dL. His serum creatinine level was elevated from his baseline to 2.5 mg/dL. He was producing a normal amount of urine without hematuria. Computed tomography (CT) without intravenous contrast revealed a 12 cm × 2.5 cm subcapsular hematoma around the transplanted kidney (Figure 1). Urology was consulted, and the decision was made to conservatively observe the patient, as he met criteria of a renal trauma grade II according to the renal trauma grading system by the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

On admission, the patient received a red blood cell transfusion and was started on labetalol for hypertension. His systolic blood pressure was controlled within a range of 110-140. Within three days, his serum creatinine level increased to 5.4 mg/dL and his urine output decreased. His blood pressure was elevated up to 156/80 mmHg. The patient was transferred to a transplant center for further treatment.

At the transplant center, Doppler ultrasound (US) demonstrated an extensive peri-allograft hypoechoic area, abnormal arterial waveforms with absent diastolic flow in the arcuate arteries and a patent renal vein (Figure 2). He underwent emergent laparotomy for hematoma decompression. A substantial portion of the hematoma was evacuated by capsulotomy. Concurrent kidney biopsy showed no evidence of rejection. His postoperative course was uncomplicated and uneventful. The patient resumed tacrolimus, mycophenolate mofetil, and prednisone. However, his kidney function continued to deteriorate and he became dependent on hemodialysis. He is currently maintained with mycophenolate mofetil monotherapy and is awaiting a second kidney transplant.

DISCUSSION

PK was first described by Irvine Page in 1939, when he wrapped animal kidneys with cellophane and observed spontaneous hemorrhage in patients with arterial hypertension in conjunction with acute renal dysfunction. Trauma, spontaneous hemorrhage in patients with predisposing factors (anticoagulation), bleeding after interventions (surgery, biopsy, nephrostomy, and lithotripsy), tumors, renal cysts, urinoma, and lymphocele have been proposed as etiological factors. Hypoperfusion and microvascular ischemia in the kidney are considered to stimulate the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and cause hypertension. If the involved kidney is solitary, or if the contralateral organ is damaged, renal failure may ensue. There are a variety of treatment options, including conservative management as the hematoma is absorbed; surgical decompression by capsulotomy as part of a laparoscopic intervention; and, in extreme cases, nephrectomy. Improvement of renal function after evacuation of the hematoma, in the absence of rejection or ureteral obstruction, confirms the diagnosis. In our case, CT demonstrated a large subcapsular hematoma compressing the parenchyma with a significant Doppler US finding of "absent arterial diastolic
flow with patent renal vein”. Furthermore, a kidney biopsy failed to demonstrate evidence of rejection, which further supported the diagnosis of PK.

PK after kidney transplantation was first described in 1976 as “pseudorejection” by Cromie et al[11]. This was because PK causes acute deterioration of graft function, which resembles rejection. Since then, 30 cases of post-transplant PK have been reported in the literature (Table 1)[4-6,10-31]. The most common causes are iatrogenic (kidney biopsy in 18 cases, renal artery stenting in 1 case, ureteral stenting in 1 case, and nephrostomy in 1 case); trauma (3 cases)[5,6]; spontaneous (2 cases)[15,27]; and postoperative bleeding (2 cases)[11,12]. Surgical decompression with capsulotomy and evacuation of hematoma have been performed in most cases (25 cases), and interventional radiographic drainage was performed in 1 case[14], while 3 cases were conservatively observed with complete improvement of kidney function[19,26]. The diagnosis is most commonly made by Doppler US findings of “absent arterial diastolic flow, reversible arterial diastolic flow, or significant increase of arterial resistive index, with a large peri-allograft hypoechoic area,” suggesting extrinsic compression of renal parenchyma and subsequent cortical ischemia. In most cases, these findings have prompted surgical or radiographic intervention. On the other hand, allograft losses have been reported in 2 cases[15,21]. One allograft was saved with a surgical intervention performed 2 d after the onset[15], while one allograft was lost despite immediate intervention[21]. In our case, the patient was observed at a local hospital and noted to have renal trauma grade II; the patient did not undergo Doppler US evaluation for the first three days of hospitalization. He was finally transferred to a transplant center after his urine output significantly decreased. His graft loss may have been preventable if he had been evaluated with Doppler US upon presentation to the local hospital as well as if timely surgical intervention or transfer to a transplant center had been requested earlier. This case reinforces that care of the kidney differs if the kidney is solitary or a transplant. Early recognition of PK and aggressive treatments are mandatory, especially when Doppler findings suggest compression of a solitary or transplanted kidney.

We recommend the following care for acute PK. Patients without pre-existing kidney disease who have unilateral PK need to be admitted for monitoring of vitals, including blood pressure, heart rate, urine output, serum creatinine levels and hemoglobin levels. Abdominal/pelvic CT scan is preferable for accurate initial staging and diagnosis of the etiology of PK. Ongoing hemorrhage in a stable patient can be controlled by embolization with interventional radiology. After the initial diagnosis has been made, follow-up with US is appropriate. An initial attempt should be made to stabilize hypertension with antihypertensive medication. Conservative management and evaluation of the etiology are recommended as part of first-line treatment. Unstable patients might be more appropriate for surgery.

In the case of transplant patients, patients with a single kidney, and patients with bilateral PK, the patient should be transferred to a transplant center or a center capable of caring for the patient with acute PK and the underlying etiology. Vitals, including the blood pressure, heart rate and urine output, serum creatinine level and hemoglobin levels, should be carefully monitored. We recommend the following care for acute PK.

Patients without pre-existing kidney disease who have unilateral PK need to be admitted for monitoring of vitals, including blood pressure, heart rate, urine output, serum creatinine levels and hemoglobin levels. Abdominal/pelvic CT scan is preferable for accurate initial staging and diagnosis of the etiology of PK. Ongoing hemorrhage in a stable patient can be controlled by embolization with interventional radiology. After the initial diagnosis has been made, follow-up with US is appropriate. An initial attempt should be made to stabilize hypertension with antihypertensive medication. Conservative management and evaluation of the etiology are recommended as part of first-line treatment. Unstable patients might be more appropriate for surgery.

In the case of transplant patients, patients with a single kidney, and patients with bilateral PK, the patient should be transferred to a transplant center or a center capable of caring for the patient with acute PK and the underlying etiology. Vitals, including the blood pressure, heart rate and urine output, serum creatinine level and hemoglobin levels, should be carefully monitored.
### Table 1  Acute Page kidney after kidney transplantation

| Year | Ref. | Age/sex | Onset after transplant | Cause | Modality for diagnosis | Positive US sign | Type of intervention | Intervention time after onset | Result |
|------|------|---------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 2016 | Takahashi | 67/M | 12 yr | Trauma | US/CT | Yes | Surgical decompression | 3 d | AL |
| 2015 | Sedigh et al. | 67/M | 12 yr | Trauma | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | 12 h | CR |
| 2015 | Ay et al. | 50/M | 1 d | Postoperative bleeding | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2014 | Adjei-Gyamfi et al. | 12/M | 7 wk | Txp kidney biopsy | US/CT | No | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2014 | Adjei-Gyamfi et al. | 18/F | 1 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US | No | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2013 | Hamidian Jahromi et al. | 19/M | 5 wk | Txp renal arterial stenting | US/Angio | Yes | IR drainage | 6 h | CR |
| 2012 | Gandhi et al. | 46/M | 17 yr | Spontaneous | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2011 | Maurya et al. | 30/M | 7 d | Txp kidney biopsy | US/CT | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2011 | Okesegbukwu et al. | 32/M | 8 d | Txp ureteral stenting | US | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2010 | Butt et al. | 61/F | 24 d | Spontaneous | CT | - | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2010 | Posadas et al. | 55/M | 3 mo | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2009 | Kamar et al. | 47/M | 1 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Observation | - | CR |
| 2009 | Kamar et al. | 59/M | 1 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Observation | - | CR |
| 2009 | Caldes et al. | 60/M | 1 mo | Percutaneous nephrostomy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | 24 h | CR |
| 2008 | Chung et al. | 27/F | 11 d | Txp kidney biopsy | US/CT | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2008 | Chung et al. | 39/F | Several days | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2008 | Chung et al. | 35/M | 4 d | Txp kidney biopsy | US/CT | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Immediately | AL |
| 2008 | Chung et al. | 33/F | 9 mo | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2008 | Heffernan et al. | 64/M | 4 mo | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2007 | Patel et al. | 69/M | 7 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US/CT | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2005 | Gibney et al. | 32/M | 1 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US/Angio | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 2000 | Rea et al. | 34/M | 3 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 1996 | Machida et al. | 32/M | 4 mo | Txp kidney biopsy | CT/Scinti | - | Observation | - | PR |
| 1996 | Goyal et al. | 41/M | 12 yr | Trauma | CT/MRI/Scinti | - | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| 1994 | Nguyen et al. | 26/M | 12 h | Spontaneous | US | - | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 1993 | Dempsey et al. | 19/F | 2 yr | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Surgical decompression | Immediately | CR |
| 1993 | Ben Hamida et al. | 32/M | 7 mo | Heparin after renal vein thrombosis | US | Yes | Observation | - | CR |
| 1991 | Kliewer et al. | 56/F | 2 wk | Txp kidney biopsy | US | Yes | Nephrectomy | Unknown | AL |
| 1988 | Figueroa et al. | 40/F | 11 mo | Txp kidney biopsy | CT/Angio | - | Surgical decompression | 30 h | CR |
| 1988 | Yussim et al. | 40/F | 5 mo | Postoperative lymphoceles | US | Unknown | Surgical decompression | Unknown | CR |
| 1976 | Cromie et al. | 35/M | 10 d | Postoperative bleeding | US | Unknown | Surgical decompression | 2 d | CR |

1. Absent diastolic flow, reversible flow, high resistive index at the transplant renal arteries, or increase in the RI from baseline by Doppler US. US: Ultrasound; CT: Computed tomography; IR: Interventional radiography; Txp: Transplant; AL: Allograft loss; CR: Complete resolution; Angio: Angiography; Scinti: Scintigraphy.
monitored. In addition to CT scanning for staging and diagnosis, Doppler US should be performed to evaluate parenchymal compression. Hypertension should be managed using antihypertensive medication and strict fluid balance. If the patient has an elevated serum creatinine level or a decrease in urine output as well as positive Doppler signs, prompt surgical intervention should be considered.

We experienced a rare case of allograft loss from acute PK secondary to trauma after kidney transplantation. The care of PK in a transplant kidney differs from PK in the native kidney. Early recognition and aggressive treatments are mandatory, especially in a case with positive Doppler signs.

REFERENCES

1. Haydar A, Bakri RS, Prime M, Goldsmith DJ. Page kidney—a review of the literature. J Nephrol 2003; 16: 329-333 [PMID: 12832730]
2. Aragona F, Arrisani W, Calabrò A, Villi G, Cisternino A, Ostardo E. Page kidney: a curable form of arterial hypertension. Case report and review of the literature. Urol Int 1991; 46: 203-207 [PMID: 2053333 DOI: 10.1159/000282134]
3. Dopson SJ, Jayakumar S, Velez JC. Page kidney as a rare cause of hypertension: case report and review of the literature. Am J Kidney Dis 2009; 54: 334-339 [PMID: 19167799 DOI: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2008.11.014]
4. Butt FK, Seawright AH, Kokko KE, Hawksey AM. An unusual presentation of a Page kidney 24 days after transplantation: case report. Transplant Proc 2010; 42: 4291-4294 [PMID: 21168885 DOI: 10.1016/j.transproceed.2010.09.042]
5. Goyal M, Zuckher B, Ozgen P, Graves M, Scheff A. Large subcapsular hematoma in transplant kidney seen on renal scan. Clin Nucl Med 1996; 21: 345-346 [PMID: 8925634]
6. Sedigh O, Lasaponara F, Dalmaso E, Gai M, Hayashi Y, Bosso A, Pasquale G, Lilazz B, Biancone L, Frea B. Subcapsular Hematoma Causing Anuria After Renal Graft Trauma. Exp Clin Transplant 2015; Epub ahead of print [PMID: 26496471 DOI: 10.6002/ect.2015.0073]
7. Salgado OJ, Vidal AM, Semprun P, Garcia R. Conservative management of an extensive renal graft subcapsular hematoma arising during live donor nephrectomy. Role of Doppler sonographic posttransplant follow-up. J Clin Ultrasound 2010; 38: 164-167 [PMID: 19856428 DOI: 10.1002/jcu.20644]
8. Çiftçi S, Stuart Wolf J. Laparoscopic treatment of Page kidney: a report of two cases and review of the literature. Turk J Urol 2013; 39: 126-130 [PMID: 26328095 DOI: 10.5152/tuj.2013.024]
9. Sterns RH, Rabiniwitz R, Segal AJ, Spitzer RM. ‘Page kidney’, Hypertension caused by chronic subcapsular hematoma. Arch Intern Med 1985; 145: 169-171 [PMID: 3970635 DOI: 10.1001/archinte.198.5.00360010215042]
10. Kliwer MA, Carroll BA. Ultrasound case of the day. Page kidney phenomenon in a transplanted kidney after biopsy. Radiographics 1991; 11: 336-337 [PMID: 20280639 DOI: 10.1148/radiographics.11.2.2028069]
11. Cromie WJ, Jordan MH, Leapman SB. Pseudorejection: the Page kidney phenomenon in renal allografts. J Urol 1976; 116: 658-659 [PMID: 789921]
12. Ay N, Beyazt Û, Alp V, Duyrum R, Sevük U, Anlı M, Danoğlu R. Rupture of a Subcapsular Hematoma After Kidney Transplant: Case Report. Exp Clin Transplant 2015; Epub ahead of print [PMID: 26496378 DOI: 10.6002/ect.2014.0270]
13. Adjei-Gyamili Y, Koffman G, Arnies T, Easty M, Marks SD, McHugh K. Reversible acute anuric kidney injury after surgical evacuation of perinephric hematoma as a complication of renal transplant biopsies. Pediatr Transplant 2014; 18: E262-E265 [PMID: 25316156 DOI: 10.1111/petr.12375]
14. Hamidian Jahromi A, Fronck K, Kassiru N, Bydawell G, Patel U, MacPhee IA. Acute page kidney complicating kidney transplant artery stenting: presentation of a case and novel management. Iran J Kidney Dis 2013; 7: 352-355 [PMID: 24072145]
15. Gandhi V, Khosravi M, Burns A. Page kidney in a 17-year-old renal allograft. BMJ Case Rep 2012; 2012: [PMID: 23220837 DOI: 10.1136/bcr.2012-007653]
16. Mauyra KK, Bhat HS, Mathew G, Kumar G. Page kidney following renal allograft biopsy - early recognition and treatment. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transpl 2011; 22: 1012-1013 [PMID: 21912035]
17. Okechukwu O, Reddy S, Guleria S. A page in transplantation. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transpl 2011; 22: 796-798 [PMID: 21743233]
18. Posadas MA, Yang V, Ho B, Omer M, Battle D. Acute renal failure and severe hypertension from a page kidney post-transplant biopsy. ScientificWorldJournal 2010; 10: 1539-1542 [PMID: 20964451 DOI: 10.1100/nw.2010.150]
19. Kamra N, Sallusto F, Rostaing L. Acute Page kidney after a kidney allograft biopsy: successful outcome from observation and medical
treatment. *Transplantation* 2009; 87: 453-454 [PMID: 19202455 DOI: 10.1097/TP.0b013e318195766b]

20 **Caldés S**, Fernández A, Rivera M, Merino JL, González R, Amezquita Y, Marcén R, Burgos FJ, Ortíz A. A Page kidney case report with diastolic flow reversion in Doppler ultrasonography. *Transplantation* 2009; 87: 303-304 [PMID: 19155989 DOI: 10.1097/TP.0b013e3181938e8f]

21 **Chung J**, Caumartin Y, Warren J, Luke PP. Acute Page kidney following renal allograft biopsy: a complication requiring early recognition and treatment. *Am J Transplant* 2008; 8: 1323-1328 [PMID: 18444936 DOI: 10.1111/j.1600-6143.2008.02215.x]

22 **Heffernan E**, Zwirewich C, Harris A, Nguan C. Page kidney after renal allograft biopsy: sonographic findings. *J Clin Ultrasound* 2009; 37: 226-229 [PMID: 18386812 DOI: 10.1002/jcu.20465]

23 **Patel TV**, Goes N. Page kidney. *Kidney Int* 2007; 72: 1562 [PMID: 18046425 DOI: 10.1038/sj.ki.5002580]

24 **Gibney EM**, Edelstein CL,Wisernan AC, Bak T. Page kidney causing reversible acute renal failure: an unusual complication of transplant biopsy. *Transplantation* 2005; 80: 285-286 [PMID: 16041280 DOI: 10.1097/01.TP.0000165097.42243.3F]

25 **Rea R**, Anderson K, Mitchell D, Harper S, Williams T. Subcapsular hematoma: a cause of post biopsy oliguria in renal allografts. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 2000; 15: 1104-1105 [PMID: 10862671 DOI: 10.1093/ndt/15.7.1104]

26 **Machida J**, Kitani K, Inadome A, Wada Y, Kawabata K, Yoshida M, Ueda S. Subcapsular hematoma and hypertension following percutaneous needle biopsy of a transplanted kidney. *Int J Urol* 1996; 3: 228-230 [PMID: 8776622 DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2042.1996.tb00521.x]

27 **Nguyen BD**, Nghiem DO, Adatepe MH. Page kidney phenomenon in allograft transplant. *Clin Nuc Med* 1994; 19: 361-363 [PMID: 8004877 DOI: 10.1097/00003072-199404000-00022]

28 **Dempsey J**, Gavant ML, Cowles SJ, Gaber AO. Acute Page kidney phenomenon: a cause of reversible renal allograft failure. *South Med J* 1993; 86: 574-577 [PMID: 8488410 DOI: 10.1097/00007611-199305000-00019]

29 **Ben Hamida F**, Westeel PF, Achard JM, Filloux V, Tribout B, Bouzermidj M, Petit J, Fournier A. Favorable outcome under simple heparin therapy of recurrent anuria due to graft renal vein thrombosis and subcapsular hematoma. *Transplant Proc* 1993; 25: 2341-2342 [PMID: 8516921]

30 **Figueroa TE**, Frentz GD. Anuria secondary to percutaneous needle biopsy of a transplanted kidney: a case report. *J Urol* 1988; 140: 355-356 [PMID: 3294445]

31 **Yussin A**, Shmuely D, Levy J, Servadio C, Shapira Z. Page kidney phenomenon in kidney allograft following peritransplant lymphocele. *Urology* 1988; 31: 512-514 [PMID: 3287745 DOI: 10.1016/0090-4295(88)90219-1]

P- Reviewer: Markic D, Niu CY, Scharman EJ
S- Editor: Qi Y
L- Editor: A
E- Editor: Lu YJ
