Correlation of Renal Scarring to Urinary Tract Infections and Vesicoureteral Reflux in Children

Hamdy Aboutaleb 1,2, Tamer A. Abouelgreed 3,4, Hala El-Hagrasi, 5 Diaa Bakry Eldib 6, Mohamed A. Abdelaal 2,3 and Mohamed Amin El Gohary 2

1Department of Urology, Menoufia University, Shibin Al Kawm, Egypt
2Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE
3Department of Urology, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt
4Department of Urology, Gulf Medical University, Ajman, UAE
5Department of Pediatric, Suez Canal University, Sheikh Zayed City, Egypt
6Radiodiagnosis Department, Faculty of Medicine, Benha University, Benha, Egypt

Correspondence should be addressed to Hamdy Aboutaleb; hamdyabotaleb@yahoo.com

Received 24 January 2022; Accepted 1 April 2022; Published 26 April 2022

Objective. To study the association of the grade of vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) and urinary tract infections (UTI) with renal scarring at the first clinical presentation of patients who underwent antireflux surgery.

Materials and methods. Between 2015 and 2020, 150 patients (194 units) who underwent antireflux surgery had dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA) renal scans preoperatively. Patients were classified into the nonscar and scar groups according to DMSA scan results. Moreover, cases were classified into afebrile UTI, febrile UTI, and antenatal hydronephrosis (ANH) according to the mode of presentation. We correlated the mode of presentation and the grade of VUR to the presence/absence of renal scars in both groups.

Results. The mean follow-up was 45 months preoperatively. The mode of presentation was afebrile, febrile UTIs, and antenatal hydronephrosis (ANH) according to the mode of presentation. We correlated the mode of presentation and the grade of VUR to the presence/absence of renal scars in both groups. Results. The mean follow-up was 45 months preoperatively. The mode of presentation was afebrile, febrile UTIs, and antenatal hydronephrosis in (50, 14), (20, 46), and (10, 10) patients in the nonscar and scar groups, respectively. Of the 20 patients who presented ANH, 10 (50%) had scars. Clinical presentation was correlated to the presence of renal scarring and its degree. The scar group had significantly higher grades of VUR than the nonscar group (grades I–II (50 units versus 10 units), grade III (28 units versus 40 units), and grade IV–V (22 units versus 44 units) for the nonscar versus scar groups, respectively (pvalue < 0.001).

Conclusion. Renal scarring is associated with higher grades of reflux and urinary tract infections. We advocate further research investigating infants who had UTIs with or without fever for early detection of reflux.

1. Introduction

Vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) is a common problem in children and is mainly presented with febrile urinary tract infections (FUTIs) [1]. FUTI is one of the most common serious febrile illnesses in children, and its incidence in the first 6 years of life accounts for up to 8.4% of girls and 1.7% of boys. After the assessment of FUTI, approximately 30 to 50% of children who underwent voiding cystourethograms have VUR [2]. The association between VUR, UTIs, and renal damage is well-known [3]. Reflux nephropathy which is mainly associated with high-grade reflux causes renal scars and can end in end-stage renal disease in up to 3% to 25% of cases [4]. Reflux nephropathy develops as a result of high-grade fetal reflux in the absence of UTIs and could cause renal scars as well [4]. It is difficult to determine whether these scars are due to fetal nephropathy or FUTIs. We hypothesize that there is an association between the higher grades of reflux and FUTIs to renal scarring at the first clinical presentation of patients who underwent antireflux surgery.
2. Patients and Methods

After obtaining institutional review board approval, we conducted a retrospective study and reviewed patients’ charts who underwent antireflux surgeries from January 2015 to May 2020. We recruited 150 patients (194 units) who were diagnosed with VUR. We only included children with primary VUR who presented to our institution and were evaluated using voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) and dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA) renal scan. We excluded patients who had multiple nonurological congenital anomalies and patients with secondary VUR such as those with myelomeningocele, ureteroceles, urethral valves, and duplex kidney. We recorded patients’ characteristics including age, gender, mode of presentation, side of VUR as well as laterality. Modes of presentation were FUTI, afebrile UTI, and antenatal hydronephrosis (AHN). Urinary tract infection was defined as the growth of at least 105 colony-forming units per milliliter of a single bacterial species from midstream or catheter specimens. When UTIs are associated with fevers, more than 38 degrees is defined as febrile UTIs. All included patients were evaluated for VUR using VCUG and detected VUR was graded according to the International Reflux Study Committee from grade I to V (Figure 1) [5]. Based on the patient classifications used in previous studies, who considered grades I–III as low-grade VUR and grades IV and V as high-grade VUR [6]. Moreover, we reviewed patients’ ultrasounds carried out at presentation, and hydrenephrosis was graded according to the Society for Fetal Urology (SFU) system [7]. At our institution, a DMSA scan is performed in the case of FUTI, VUR grade IV–V, or suspected renal scar using ultrasound. A DMSA scan was performed 3 to 6 months after the last UTI, and those who had a DMSA renal scan before 6 months were excluded from the study. A DMSA scan was repeated in the case of recurrent FUTI. A gamma camera equipped with a low-energy, high-resolution collimator 2–3 hours after intravenous injection of a dose of 99 MTC DMSA [8]. The relative uptake function of both kidneys was calculated as the percentage renal uptake of each kidney. Image interpretation was assessed by the same team of radiologists in our hospital and renal uptake of each kidney. Image interpretation was performed using COX regression. In the univariate analysis, only parameters with a p value of less than 0.1 were qualified for the multivariate analysis. A p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

3. Statistics

The data were statistically analyzed using SPSS V26 (Statistical Package for Social Science). The categorical data were presented in numbers and percentages and evaluated using the Chi-square test. Medians and ranges were used to present continuous data, and nonparametric tests were used for evaluation. Univariate and multivariate analyses for possible independent predictors of renal scars were performed using COX regression. In the univariate analysis, the data were statistically analyzed using SPSS V26 (Statistical Package for Social Science). The categorical data were presented in numbers and percentages and evaluated using the Chi-square test. Medians and ranges were used to present continuous data, and nonparametric tests were used for evaluation. Univariate and multivariate analyses for possible independent predictors of renal scars were performed using COX regression. In the univariate analysis, only parameters with a p value of less than 0.1 were qualified for the multivariate analysis. A p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

4. Results

After reviewing the charts of 196 patients, we excluded 46 patients. Patients were excluded due to associated other congenital anomalies (19 patients) and nonavailable renogram studies (27 patients). Finally, we collected 150 patients (194 units) who were diagnosed with VUR at our institution. 80 patients (100 units) had no renal scars, while 70 patients (94 units) were diagnosed with renal scars (Figure 3). Patients’ characteristics are presented in Table 1. It was noticed that the number of females was much higher than males; however, this was not statistically significant (p = 0.053). The median follow-up duration was 54.2 months (14.2–109). The majority of patients in the [no renal scar group] presented with afebrile UTI, while those in the [renal scar group] presented mainly with FUTI (p < 0.001). Fifty percent of the [no renal scar group] had low-grade VUR (grades I and II), while most patients of the [renal scar group] had moderate or severe VUR (grades III–V) (p < 0.001). Patients of the [renal scar group] had more incidence of recurrent FUTI and a higher need for surgical intervention (p < 0.001 for both). There was no significant difference between both groups regarding the age at surgery (p = 0.19). Thirty-five units (35%) of the no scar group required surgical interventions (22 units had deflux injection
Figure 1: (a) Voiding cystourethrography image shows grade V left vesicoureteral reflux. (b) Voiding cystourethrography image shows bilateral vesicoureteral reflux grade V in a newborn.

Figure 2: (a) DMSA scan image reveals a cold spot in the upper pole of the right kidney due to renal scarring in a child with a history of febrile urinary tract infections. (b) DMSA scan image reveals left multiple cold spots in the right kidney due to multiple renal scarring after recurrent urinary tract infections. (c) DMSA scan image reveals global atrophy of the right kidney due to grade V severe vesicoureteral reflux.

Figure 3: Flowchart of the study.
and 13 had reimplantation). In the scar group, nearly all patients underwent surgical interventions (58 units had deflux injections, 32 had ureteral reimplantation, and 3 had nephrectomies). Laparoscopic simple nephrectomies were performed due to nonfunctioning kidneys with persistent pyuria. One patient in the scar group underwent conservative management because the scar was mild. Moreover, this patient did not experience recurrent FUTI throughout the follow-up.

Regarding the degree of renal scarring, 60 units had mild scarring, 26 had moderate, and severe scarring was observed in 8 units (Table 2). In the [renal scar group], most kidneys with SFU grade 0 had mild scarring, 20/29 (69%) in comparison to 6 kidneys (75%) with severe scars that had high-grade hydronephrosis (SFU grades 3 and 4) \( (p < 0.001) \). Notably, all patients with severe renal scarring experienced recurrent FUTI in comparison to 83.3% with moderate scars and 52.3% with mild scars \( (p < 0.001) \). The univariate analysis, using COX regression, revealed that laterality, side, mode of presentation, the grade of VUR, and the incidence of recurrent FUTI were associated with the incidence of renal scarring. Using COX multivariate analysis, low-grade VUR \( (HR=0.39, p = 0.04) \), high-grade VUR \( (HR=1, p = 0.002) \), and FUTI recurrence \( (HR=1.43, p = 0.03) \) were shown to be independent predictors of renal scarring (Table 3).

### Table 1: Patients’ characteristics.

| Parameter               | No renal scar group, 80 patients 100 units | Renal scar group, 70 patients 94 units | \( p \)-value |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Age at presentation, median (range) | 11.3 months (0.1–28.4) | 10.8 months (0.1–21.3) | 0.32 |
| Gender                  |                                           |                                         |               |
| Male, n (%)             | 30 (37.5)                                 | 16 (22.9)                              | 0.053         |
| Female, n (%)           | 50 (62.5)                                 | 54 (77.1)                              |               |
| Laterality              |                                           |                                         | 0.21          |
| Unilateral, n (%)       | 60 (75)                                   | 46 (65.7)                              |               |
| Bilateral, n (%)        | 20 (25)                                   | 24 (34.3)                              |               |
| Side                    |                                           |                                         | 0.56          |
| Right, n (%)            | 26 (26)                                   | 28 (29.8)                              |               |
| Left, n (%)             | 74 (74)                                   | 66 (70.2)                              |               |
| Mode of presentation    |                                           |                                         |               |
| AHN, n (%)              | 10 (12.5)                                 | 46 (65.7)                              | <0.001        |
| Febrile UTI, n (%)      | 20 (25)                                   | 14 (20)                                |               |
| Afebrile UTI, n (%)     | 50 (62.5)                                 | 33 (33)                                |               |
| SFU grade               |                                           |                                         |               |
| SFU grade 0, n (%)      | 12 (12)                                   | 29 (30.9)                              | 0.21          |
| SFU grade 1 + 2, n (%)  | 65 (65)                                   | 47 (50)                                |               |
| SFU grade 3 + 4, n (%)  | 33 (33)                                   | 18 (19.1)                              |               |
| VUR grade               |                                           |                                         |               |
| Grade 1 and 2, n (%)    | 50 (50)                                   | 10 (10.6)                              | <0.001        |
| Grade 3, n (%)          | 28 (28)                                   | 40 (42.6)                              |               |
| Grades 4 and 5, n (%)   | 22 (22)                                   | 44 (46.8)                              |               |
| Recurrent FUTI, n (%)   | 12 (15)                                   | 52 (74.3)                              | <0.001        |
| Need for surgery, n (%) | 35/100 (35)                               | 93/94 (98.9)                           | <0.001        |
| Age at surgery, mean\(\pm SD\) | 38.6 months (17.4 – 59.9) | 34.1 months (11.6 – 65.8) | 0.19 |

FUTI: febrile urinary tract infections, AHN: antenatal hydronephrosis, SFU: Society of Fetal Urology, and VUR: vesicoureteral reflux.

5. Discussion

Urinary tract infection (UTI) is the most common bacterial infection in pediatric patients. In the first 6 years of life, 8.4% of girls and 1.7% of boys will have a UTI [1]. UTIs cause fever, dysuria, and pain and may also result in permanent scarring of the kidney. Many factors, such as age, gender, race, and circumcision status, are risk factors for developing recurrent UTIs. [13]. Recurrent attacks of infection and vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) are major risk factors for the development of renal scarring [14]. Early diagnosis and treatment may prevent or decrease renal scarring caused by acute febrile UTI [15]. Reflux nephropathy lesions are often present in neonates with high-grade VUR in the absence of UTIs. It has been reported that 71% of uninfected neonates with high-grade VUR had renal scarring detected by renal isotope scanning [16]. The DMSA renal scan is considered by many authors as the most sensitive modality for detecting renal scarring. Studies reveal that 30 to 50% of children with VUR have renal parenchymal scarring [17]. The presented data did not confirm this belief. The authors did not find a correlation between age groups and sex with VCUG or DMSA renal scan results. In our study, in a selected group of patients who underwent antireflux surgery, it was noted that the grade of VUR is a predominant feature in the association of scars. The mode of presentation cannot detect the presence or absence of scars. The presence of UTIs may not denote the presence of associated scarring. However, treatment of high-grade VUR before the development of UTIs may protect against renal scarring. Early treatment in cases of tubular scarring correlates with reversal of the corresponding abnormalities observed on Tcm 99-DMSA scanning [17]. Moreover, the data from Orellana et al. [18]...
found that children older than 1 year developed more renal scarring after pyelonephritis than those younger than 1 year (70.1% vs. 36.4%; \( p < 0.0001 \)), which is in contrast to most reports. Acute pyelonephritis without renal scarring has been reported [19]. Severe forms of VUR were associated with dysmorphic kidneys.

Merguerian et al. [20] reported a correlation between renal scarring and age. Renal abnormalities were present in 20% of infants younger than one year of age compared with a 5% incidence of focal scars. The incidence of focal scarring is higher after the age of one year (16% and 20%). In infants younger than one year of age, imaging of dysmorphic

| Parameter                  | Univariate analysis | Multivariate analysis |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Age at presentation        | HR      CI          | \( P \) value | HR    CI      | \( P \) value |
| Gender                     | 0.67    0.29–1.09  | 0.22     | —     —     | —     —     |
| Laterality                 | 0.89    0.65–1.22  | 0.46     | —     —     | —     —     |
| Side                       | 0.81    0.6–1.02   | 0.07     | 1.31   0.97–1.78| 0.12   |
| Presentation               | 1.67    0.94–2.4   | 0.09     | 1.61   0.74–3.53| 0.22   |
| FUTI                       | 0.67    0.29–1.09  | 0.22     | —     —     | —     —     |
| Afebrile UTI               | 0.73    0.49–0.97  | 0.04     | 0.72   0.23–2.25| 0.17   |
| AHN                        | 0.18    0.05–0.31  | 0.012    | 0.26   0.002–2.99| 0.15   |
| SFU grade                  | 0.75    0.01–1.49  | 0.6      | —     —     | —     —     |
| Grade 1 and 2              | 0.27    0.12–0.43  | 0.01     | 0.39   0.19–0.95| 0.04   |
| Grade 3 and 4              | 0.69    0.43–0.95  | 0.03     | 0.66   0.29–1.03| 0.14   |
| Grade 4 and 5              | —       0.005     | —       | 0.005  1   | 0.02   |
| Recurrent UTI              | 2.65    2.15–3.15  | 0.002    | 1.43   1.03–1.83| 0.03   |

FUTI: febrile urinary tract infections, AHN: antenatal hydronephrosis, SFU: Society of Fetal Urology, and VUR: vesicoureteral reflux.
kidneys suggested a congenital basis for nephropathy [16]. However, focal scarring is strongly correlated to the VUR of infected urine in children older than one year. Fifty percent of reflux-associated nephropathy presents as focal scarring. In our study, 44 patients (60 units) have focal scarring, and 8 patients (8 units) had global atrophy and less than 20% function. Focal scars may indicate previously missed infections, and global atrophy may denote a congenital basis that correlates well with Merguerian et al. [20] results. In our study, a female predominance was noted in patients who had scars with a 1 : 3 male to female ratio. On the other hand, Ransley [21] reported that sterile VUR itself does not cause renal scarring in pigs. In clinical practice, the evidence is largely circumstantial, but conservative management of patients with VUR is based on the recognition that scarring does not occur when sterile urine is maintained with antibacterial prophylaxis [22]. Mackie and Stephens [23] proposed that renal dysplasia and/or hypoplasia are related to the abnormal development of the embryonic ureteral bud. Further terminological confusion is caused by reports of acute pyelonephritis followed by renal scarring in the absence of VUR [24]. In our study, approximately 50% of patients had scars at the first presentation of VUR, and new scars developed in the previously unscarred kidneys as reported by the International Reflux Study Committee irrespective of medical or surgical treatment of VUR [25]. These observations could be proposed for a prospective study for screening children susceptible to VUR. The development of reflux nephropathy and renal scarring is a multifactorial process. Risk factors for renal scarring include VUR, UTI, and previous scar/dysplasia [26]. Although antenatal US can help identify up to 30% of newborns with VUR, exposing detectable renal damage before UTI, US imaging can miss approximately 50% of the scars. In our study, 46.7% of our patients had abnormal DMSA. Our study revealed that renal scars are more associated with the grade of VUR than UTIs. Researchers from Sweden reported a higher prevalence of scars in more severe grades [27]. The prenatal ultrasound can play an important role in the early detection of VUR. Further postnatal evaluation reveals VUR in 10 to 30% of patients with hydrenephrosis on ultrasound [28]. It is reported that the incidence of VUR in siblings of patients is higher than in the general population. VUR in asymptomatic siblings is of low grade, in contrast to symptomatic VUR, which is of high grade and associated with a higher incidence of reflux nephropathy [29]. The aim of early detection of VUR or any intervention is to prevent upper tract damage. Our findings encourage the early intervention of high-grade VUR to prevent renal damage.

The present study results are consistent with many other studies that confirmed the presence of a correlation between developing renal scarring and the degree of severity of the coexisting VUR. Camacho et al. [30] reported that children with normal DMSA had a lower chance of VUR than children with abnormal DMSA (12% vs. 48%). Hoberman et al. [13] reported that renal scarring was less likely to occur in children without VUR compared with those with VUR (6% vs. 14.7%, p = 0.03). A large portion of patients with renal scarring in the absence of demonstrable reflux suggests that other mechanisms, such as bacterial adherence, may play a role in bacterial transportation to the kidney. Supavekin et al. [31] concluded that younger children have a risk of permanent renal damage similar to that noted in older children.

In our study, we confirmed the correlation between recurrent UTI and VUR with renal scarring on DMSA renal scintigraphy. We recommend that all children with recurrent UTI and/or VUR, irrespective of age and sex, will benefit from DMSA renal scintigraphy to detect permanent renal scarring. Prospective studies are needed to provide more complete data to demonstrate renal scarring with prognosis and outcome. Antireflux surgery does not prevent progressive renal scar development and renal functional deterioration. This is true, especially in children with bilateral renal scarring. If there is indeed a lack of preventive benefit with continuous antibiotic prophylaxis and/or antireflux surgery for acute pyelonephritis and progressive renal injury in children with VUR, one may question the value of treating or even diagnosing VUR. We did not study the effect of antireflux surgery on the prevention of renal scarring, but it will need further evaluation [32]. Medical treatment and surgical correction of VUR do not effectively prevent recurrent UTI and new scar formation and progression to end-stage renal disease. Thus, physicians should focus on the prevention of initial renal scarring [33].

Limitations of the present study include possible sampling bias due to the retrospective nature of the study. Also, we did not study the effect of antireflux surgery on the prevention of further renal scarring.

6. Conclusion

Approximately 50% of patients who underwent antireflux surgery had renal scarring at presentation. Renal scarring is more linked to the grade of VUR and UTIs. We advocate proper investigation and management of infants who have had UTIs with or without fever for early detection of VUR, which may play a role in the prevention of acquired renal scarring.

Abbreviations

VUR: Vesicoureteral reflux
DMSA: Dimercaptosuccinic acid
VCUG: Voiding cystourethrography
UTIs: Urinary tract infections
FUTIs: Febrile urinary tract infections
AHN: Antenatal hydronephrosis
SFU: Society for Fetal Urology
Double HIT: Double hydrodistention implantation technique.

Data Availability

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
Ethical Approval

All procedures performed in this study were in accordance with the ethical standards of the Institution and/or National Research Committee and the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The protocol and written consent were approved by the local ethical committee of Thumbay Hospital (affiliated to Gulf Medical University, UAE) (REC number: 2483).

Consent

Informed written consent was obtained from the parents of all the patients.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors’ Contributions

-HA and TA, made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data. HA, HE, and DB were involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content. TA, MA, and MAE provided final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. All authors agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

References

[1] A. Soylu, B. K. Demir, M. Türkmen et al., “Predictors of renal scar in children with urinary infection and vesicoureteral reflux.” Pediatric Nephrology, vol. 23, no. 12, pp. 2227–2232, 2008.

[2] M. Okarska-Napierała, A. Wasilewska, and E. Kuchar, “Urinary tract infection in children: diagnosis, treatment, imaging - comparison of current guidelines,” Journal of Pediatric Urology, vol. 13, no. 6, pp. 567–573, 2017.

[3] I. Yılmaz, H. Peru, F. H. Yılmaz, T. Sekmenli, I. Çiftçi, and F. Kara, “Association of vesicoureteral reflux and renal scarring in urinary tract infections,” Arch Argent Pediatr, vol. (4), pp. e542–e547, 2018.

[4] M. Zaffanello, L. Cataldi, M. Brugnara, M. Franchini, C. Bruno, and V. Fanos, “Hidden high-grade vesicoureteral reflux is the main risk factor for chronic renal damage in children under the age of two years with first urinary tract infection,” Scandinavian Journal of Urology and Nephrology, vol. 43, no. 6, pp. 494–500, 2009.

[5] International Reflux Study Committee, “Medical versus Surgical treatment of vesicoureteral reflux: a prospective international reflux study in children,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 125, pp. 277–282, 1987.

[6] A. J. Schaeffer, S. P. Greenfield, A. Ivanova et al., “Reliability of grading of vesicoureteral reflux and other findings on voiding cystourethrography,” Journal of Pediatric Urology, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 192–198, 2017.

[7] M. V. Merrick, M. Maizels, and J. J. Conway, “Ultrasound grading of hydronephrosis:introduction to the system used by the Society for Fetal Urology,” Pediatric Radiology, vol. 23, no. 6, pp. 478–480, 1993.

[8] M. V. Merrick, “Several perfusion studies,” European Journal of Nuclear Medicine, vol. 17, no. 1-2, pp. 98–99, 1990.

[9] T. J. Yu, W.-F. Chen, and H. Y. Chen, “Early versus late surgical management of renal reflux nephropathy,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 157, no. 4, pp. 1416–1419, 1997.

[10] C. Polito, A. La Manna, P. F. Rambaldi, B. Nappi, L. Mansi, and R. Di Toro, “High incidence of a generally small kidney and primary vesicoureteral reflux,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 164, no. 2, pp. 479–482, 2000.

[11] H. Aboutaleb, D. B. Eldib, Y. Farhat, T. A. Abouelgheed, and F. Zanaty, “Efficacy of Bladder Ultrasound in Prediction of Resolution of Vesicoureteral Reflux After Endoscopic Subureteral Hyaluronic Acid/Dextranomer (Deflux) Injection,” Urology, vol. 21, 2022.

[12] H. Aboutaleb, S. Bolduc, I. Upadhyay, W. Farhat, D. J. Bagli, and A. E. Khoury, “Subureteral polydimethylsiloxane injection versus extravesical reimplantation for primary low grade vesicoureteral reflux in children: a comparative study,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 69, (1), p. 313, 2003.

[13] W. Hobbsman, M. Charron, R. W. Hickey, M. Baskin, D. H. Kearney, and E. R. Wald, “Imaging studies after a first febrile urinary tract infection in young children,” New England Journal of Medicine, vol. 348, no. 3, pp. 195–202, 2003.

[14] C. S. Dias, J. M. Silva, J. S. Diniz et al., “Risk factors for recurrent urinary tract infections in a cohort of patients with primary vesicoureteral reflux,” The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, vol. 29, no. (2), pp. 139–144, 2010.

[15] M. Arshad and P. C. Seed, “Urinary tract infections in the infant,” Clin Perinatal, vol. 42, no. (1), pp. 17–28, 2015.

[16] C. Peters and H. G. Rushston, “Vesicoureteral reflux associated renal damage: congenital reflux nephropathy and acquired renal scarring,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 184, no. 1, pp. 265–273, 2010.

[17] Y. Temiz, T. Tarcan, F. F. Önal, H. Alpay, and F. Şimşek, “The efficacy of Tc99m dimercaptosuccinic acid (Tc-DMSA) scintigraphy and ultrasonography in detecting renal scars in children with primary vesicoureteral reflux (VUR),” International Urology and Nephrology, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 149–152, 2006.

[18] P. Orellana, P. Baquedano, V. Rangarajan et al., “Relationship between acute pyelonephritis, renal scarring, and vesicoureteral reflux. Results of a coordinated research project,” Pediatric Nephrology (Berlin, Germany), vol. 19, no. 10, pp. 1122–1126, 2004.

[19] H. G. Rushston, M. Majd, B. Jantausch, B. L. Wiedermann, and A. E. Khoury, “Subureteral Hyaluronic Acid/Dextranomer (Deflux) Injection,” Resolution of Vesicoureteral Reflux After Endoscopic Subureteral Hyaluronic Acid/Dextranomer (Deflux) Injection,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 164, no. 2, pp. 479–482, 2000.

[21] T. E. Tamminen and E. A. Kaprio, “The relation of the shape of kidneys with primary vesicoureteral reflux,” Radiology, vol. 23, no. 12, pp. 2227–2232, 2006.

[22] P. G. Ransley, “Imaging studies after a first febrile urinary tract infection,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 147, no. 5, pp. 1327–1332, 1992.

[23] P. A. Merguerian, M. A. Jamal, S. K. Agarwal et al., “Utility of SPECT DMSA renal scanning in the evaluation of children with primary vesicoureteral reflux,” Urology, vol. 53, no. 5, pp. 1024–1028, 1999.

[24] P. G. Ransley, “Reflux and renal scarring,” British Journal of Urology, vol. 51, no. Suppl, p. 1, 1978.

[25] T. E. Tamminen and E. A. Kaprio, “The relation of the shape of renal papillae and of collecting duct openings to intrarenal reflux,” British Journal of Urology, vol. 49, no. 5, pp. 345–354, 1977.
[23] G. G. Mackie and F. D. Stephen, “Abnormalities of the ureteral bud,” Urologic Clinics of North America, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 161–174, 1978.

[24] W. C. Faust, M. Diaz, and H. G. Pohl, “Incidence of post-pyelonephritic renal scarring: a meta-analysis of the dimercaptoproline literature,” The Journal of Urology, vol. 181, no. 1, pp. 290–298, 2009 Jan.

[25] J. M. Smellie, T. Tamminen-Mobius, H. Olbing, I. Claesson, I. Wikstad, and U. Jodal, “Five-year study medical or surgical treatment in children with severe reflux: radiological renal findings,” The International Reflux Study in Children, Pediatric Nephrology, vol. 6, pp. 223–230, 1992.

[26] R. Lim, “Vesicoureteral reflux and urinary tract infection: evolving practices and current controversies in pediatric imaging,” AJR Am J Roentgenol, vol. 192, no. (5), p. 1197, 2009.

[27] J. Nordenström, S. Sjöström, U. Sillén, R. Sixt, and P. Brandström, “The Swedish infant high-grade reflux trial: UTI and renal damage,” Journal of Pediatric Urology, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 146–154, 2017.

[28] K. Wongbencharat, Y. Tongpenyai, and K. Na-Rungsri, “Renal ultrasound and DMSA screening for high-grade vesicoureteral reflux,” Pediatr Int, vol. 58, no. (3), p. 214, 2016.

[29] H. Olbing, J. M. Smellie, U. Jodal, and H. Lax, ”New renal scars in children with severe VUR: a 10-year study of randomized treatment,” Pediatric Nephrology, vol. 18, no. 11, pp. 1128–1131, 2003.

[30] V. Camacho, M. Estorch, G. Fraga, E. Mena, J. Fuertes, and M. A. Hernández, “DMSA study performed during febrile urinary tract infection: a predictor of patient outcome?” European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, vol. 31, no. 6, pp. 862–866, 2004.

[31] S. Supavekin, K. Kucivilize, S. Hunnangkul, J. Sriprapaporn, A. Pattaragarn, and A. Sumboonnanonda, ”He relation of vesicoureteral reflux and renal scarring in childhood urinary tract infection,” Medical Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand, vol. 89, no. Suppl 2, pp. S41–S47, 2006.

[32] M. G. Coulthard, H. J. Lambert, and M. J. Keir, ”Do systemic symptoms predict the risk of kidney scarring after urinary tract infection?” Archives of Disease in Childhood, vol. 94, no. 4, pp. 278–281, 2009.

[33] E. H. Garin, F. Olavarria, V. G. Nieto, B. Valenciano, A. Campos, and L. Young, ”Clinical significance of primary vesicoureteral reflux and urinary antibiotic prophylaxis after acute pyelonephritis a multicenter, randomized, controlled study,” Pediatrics, vol. 117, no. 3, pp. 626–632, 2006.