Regression of Adult Type Polycystic Kidneys during Chronic Intermittent Hemodialysis. Is It a Universal Phenomenon?

I. Isao Ishikawa
K. Keita Tateishi
H. Hirohisa Kitada
A. Akira Shinoda
Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kanazawa Medical University, Uchinada, Japan


Dear Sir,

We followed the size of 9 polycystic kidneys in 5 patients using CT scan [1] from 23 to 52 months (36.8 ± 4.9 months; mean ± SEM). Chronic hemodialysis was performed for 5–6 h 3 times a week. 1 case was nephrecto-mized before the induction of hemodialysis because of traumatic rupture of the cysts. As shown in figure 1, 2 kidneys increased in size, 5 remained unchanged (within 10% change of size), and 2 decreased in size. These results do not agree with the observation by Thaysen and Thomsen [2] that polycystic kidneys underwent involution during replacement therapy and that the degree of involution did not appear to depend on the replacement therapy method (i.e. hemodialysis or renal transplantation). 1 of their 12 patients was maintained with hemodialysis only. 5 others had a longer duration of dialysis than transplantation. However, 3 of the 5 were alive on graft at the time of their study.

![Fig.1. Renal volume of polycystic kidney disease treated with hemodialysis.](image)

- Right kidney A Left kidney

Our observations on the regression of acquired cystic disease of the kidney after successful renal transplantation [3] indicate that the involution of polycystic kidneys during replacement therapy might occur mainly not by hemodialysis (except for the first 3 years) but by successful renal transplantation [4,5].

Our results suggest that polycystic kidneys maintained with chronic long-term hemodialysis are not always significantly reduced in size but in some cases increase in size. Whether the increased or unchanged renal size of polycystic kidneys on long-term dialysis is related to complicated acquired cystic disease of the kidney in long-term dialysis [1] deserves further study.

References


