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## Research Article

# NEUROIMAGING CHARACTERISTICS OF ENCEPHALOPATHY IN CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

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## ABSTRACT

According to WHO, vascular diseases of the brain in the developed countries of the world account for 15% of the total mortality. At the same time, acute and chronic encephalopathies occupy a special place in the structure of vascular diseases. In recent years, special attention has been paid to encephalopathies developing as a result of renal pathology, since kidney diseases, namely chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a huge socio-economic problem that leads to cerebral complications, with a significant deterioration in the quality of life, a sharp loss of working capacity, and a high percentage of mortality. In the diagnosis of various encephalopathies and other disorders of cerebral circulation, an invaluable role is played by MRI, MSCT, brain angiography with their wide diagnostic capabilities.

## KEYWORDS

Chronic kidney disease (CKD), acute encephalopathy, chronic encephalopathy, acute cerebrovascular pathology, neuroimaging, MRI.

## INTRODUCTION

According to world data, the global prevalence of CKD in the general population averages 14.4% [1, 3], which is

comparable to such socially significant diseases as hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes

mellitus, obesity [2, 3]. Neurological complications arising from this disease are an integral part of this condition, because the kidneys and the brain have a similar anatomical structure of the vessels and similar physiological structure of the processes occurring in them. It is believed that cerebrovascular diseases among patients with CKD occur at least 2 times more often than in the general population and potentially determine the cardiovascular prognosis and the risk of cognitive impairment in patients with CKD, both in the predialysis and dialysis period [4,5,6]. According to the National Kidney Foundation USA, the incidence of cerebrovascular complications in patients of the predialysis stage is 65% and reaches 90% in patients undergoing treatment with programmed hemodialysis [7,8]. Early timely diagnosis of these complications allows to prevent fatal outcomes of this category of patients. Neuroimaging techniques play an important role in the diagnosis: MRI and MSCT of the brain using special modes. MRI is a sensitive method for detecting vasogenic edema of the brain. MR-changes in ESR are manifested in the form of an increase in signal intensity on T2-weighted images mainly in the posterior parts of the brain [9, 10]. Disorders are best visualized in the FLAIR mode, in which the signal from the cerebrospinal fluid is suppressed and even subtle changes characteristic of ESR are detected [9, 11, 12]. The use of the DWI mode and ADC mapping makes it possible to distinguish vasogenic edema that occurs in ESR from cytotoxic edema characteristic of ischemic stroke. The area of vasogenic edema is visualized by hypo- or isointensive foci on DWI MRI and increased signal intensity during ADC mapping [13,14]. The predominant involvement of the posterior parts of the brain is explained by the comparative insufficiency of sympathetic innervation of the vessels of the vertebro-basilar system. This makes them more sensitive to sudden rises in blood pressure and leads to premature

loss of vasoconstrictor properties in response to the action of a damaging factor [15, 16-18].

**Objective:** To study neuroimaging characteristics of cerebral circulation disorders in patients with chronic kidney disease

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Were analyzed MRI images of 40 (39.6%) patients with acute, chronic encephalopathies and other acute disorders of cerebral circulation. The average age of all patients was  $46.2 \pm 15.01$  years. For the correct interpretation of the data, the patients were divided into 3 groups: group 1 patients with acute hypertensive encephalopathy (n=7); group 2 patients with chronic encephalopathy (chronic hypertensive, uremic, mixed) (n=28); and group 3 patients with ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke (n=5). MRI was performed using a 3T scanner (Intera Achieva; Philips Healthcare, Best, Netherlands) and a 1.5T scanner (Signa Excite; GE Healthcare, Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

## RESULTS

During the analysis of the results obtained, the following symptoms were revealed in group 1 of patients: bilateral vasogenic cortical edema of occipital localization was detected in 3 (42.5%) patients; in 3 (42.5%) patients, the affected areas were localized in the parietal-occipital, frontal regions, and vasogenic edema of the brain stem was also detected. In one patient, along with occipital and parietal occipital localizations, the basal ganglia and lower hemispheres of the cerebellum were affected. In addition to vasogenic edema, changes in the brain included brain atrophy in 5 (71.5%), expansion of the ventricular system in 2 (28.5%) patients.

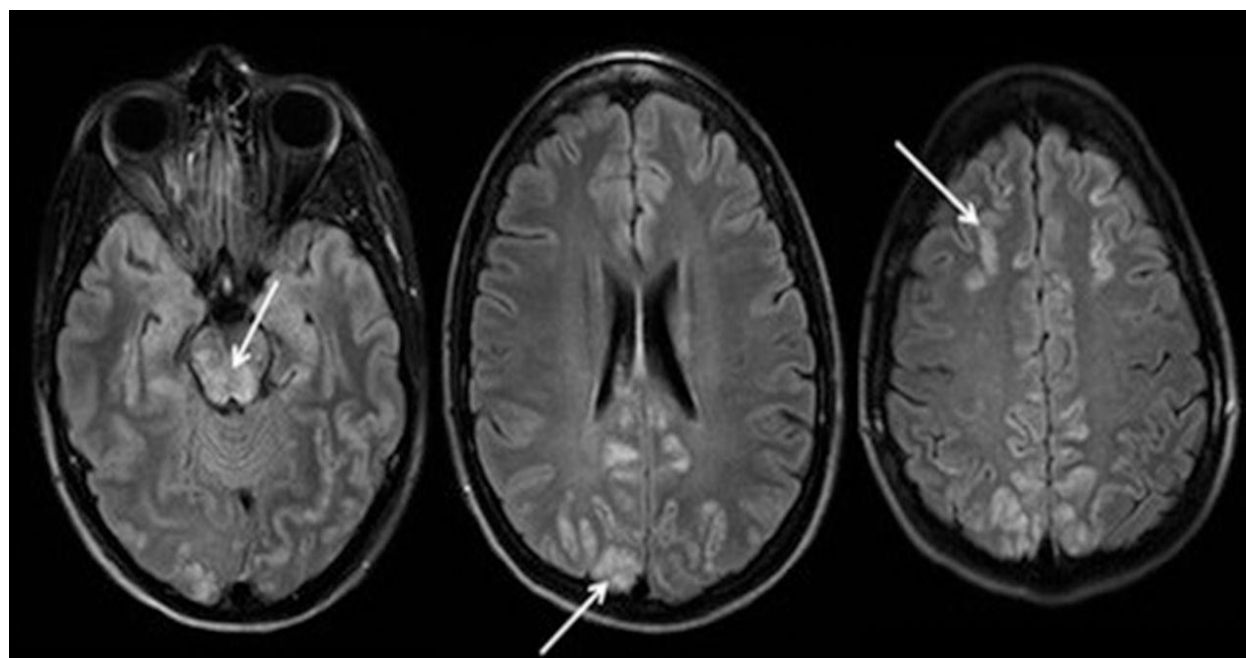


Fig.1. MRI image of a patient diagnosed with CKD 5, condition after surgery kidney transplant on the left from 07/19/2016 Recurrent nephropathy of the transplant Complication: Acute encephalopathy (PRES - syndrome of posterior reversible encephalopathy). MRI revealed diffuse lesions of the white matter of both hemispheres of the brain and areas of microischemia in the occipital lobe. Vasogenic edema in the parietal-occipital areas, as well as less common lesions in the frontal areas and brain stem

MRI characteristics of patients with chronic encephalopathies revealed local atrophy of the

cerebral cortex in 15 (53.5%), single in 10 (35.7%), multiple in 18 (64.2%), areas of pathological intensity with fuzzy contours, rounded shape, 3-4 mm in diameter, areas of pathological intensity in the structure of the white matter of both hemispheres, located mainly subcortical. Expansion of the subarachnoid space 8 (28.5.2%); as well as expansion of the ventricular system (asymmetry) 9 (32.7%). Presence of periventricular ischemic foci in 20 (71.4%)

This table shows the identified neuroimaging changes in patients with chronic kidney disease

Table 1

### Neuroimaging characteristics

Identified changes	Patients with acute encephalopathy N=7	Patients with chronic encephalopathy N= 28	Patients with ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke N=5

	A6c	%	A6c	%	A6c	%
Bilateral vasogenic edema of occipital localization	3	42,5*	-	-	-	-
Vasogenic edema in the parietal-occipital, frontal, brain stem	3	42,5*	-	-	-	-
Vasogenic edema of the occipital, parietal-occipital, basal ganglia and lower hemispheres of the cerebellum	1	14,2	-	-	-	-
Brain atrophy	5	71,5*	15	53,5	5	100
Single areas of pathological intensity	-	-	10	35,7	-	-
Multiple areas of pathological intensity	-	-	18	64,2**	-	-
Expansion of the subarachnoid space	-	-	8	28,5	2	40
Expansion of the ventricular system	2	28,5	9	32,7	-	-
The presence of periventricular ischemic foci	-	-	20	71,4*	2	40
Hypodensal focus in the periventricular region on the right (ischemic stroke in the middle cerebral artery basin)	-	-	-	-	2	40
Intracerebral hematoma of irregular shape in the thickness of the shell and the fence on the right (hemorrhagic stroke in the middle cerebral artery basin)	-	-	-	-	1	100
Periventrically on the left, closely adjacent to the front.the horns of the left lateral ventricle are hypodensic zone (ONMC we will look for.type in the SMA pool on the left)	-	-	-	-	2	100

Note: \* - data reliability  $P < 0.05$  ; \*\* -  $P < 0.01$  ; \*\*\* -  $P < 0.001$

In addition to acute and chronic encephalopathies, cases of transient ischemic attack, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke were detected among the total number of subjects: in 2 (40%) in the periventricular region on the right with the spread of an irregular hypodens focus into the projection of the inner

capsule, with indistinct contours (ischemic stroke in the middle cerebral artery basin on the right). Also, 2 (40%) periventrically on the left, closely adjacent to the anterior horn of the left lateral ventricle, an irregularly shaped hypodensal focus is visualized (ischemic stroke in the middle cerebral artery basin on the left).



Among the examined there was 1 case of hemorrhagic stroke with a characteristic visualization picture: in the thickness of the shell and fence on the right, an irregular intracerebral hematoma, with clear uneven contours, dimensions 48×22×32 mm, density +55+63 HU with a zone of perifocal edema of the white matter of the brain (hemorrhagic stroke in the middle cerebral artery basin on the right).

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above data, it can be concluded that in acute encephalopathy (PRES), not only the posterior structures of the brain are involved in the pathological process, as described in the literature, but also the frontal lobes, brain stem, basal ganglia, and cerebellum. The involvement of these structures in the literature is described as an atypical picture of this syndrome [19]. It also draws attention to the fact that the edema in acute hypertensive encephalopathy is vasogenic, and as a result, the treatment tactics differ significantly from other types of complications that have developed. According to the results, neuroimaging changes in chronic renal encephalopathy practically do not differ from other encephalopathies of vascular genesis. They develop due to the effects of uremic toxins, discirculatory changes as a result of vascular remodeling and calcification, and manifest themselves in the form of single and multiple foci of pathological intensity, the appearance of periventricular ischemic foci, as well as changes in the ventricular system, expansion of the subarachnoid space and brain atrophy.

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