

Development Of The Kidneys

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Renal block 2013 (**First lecture**)

objectives:


- Embryological origin
- Differentiate 3 systems of kidneys
- Describe development of collecting/excretory parts of permanent kidney
- Describe fetal kidney
- Identify pre/postnatal changes
- Enumerate common anomalies

Embryological Origin

- Intermediate mesoderm which divides into:
 1. **Nephrogenic ridge**: forms **kidneys & ureters**.
 2. **Gonadal ridge**: forms **gonads** (testes or ovaries).

Development of the kidneys

- Development of the kidney is divided into three phases.

1. Pronephric system:	2. Mesonephric system:	3. Metanephric system:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Appears at beginning of 4th week in cervical region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Appears at end of 4th week in thoracic & abdominal regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Appears at 5th week in pelvis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Analogous to kidney of fish. * Formed of tubules & a duct * Not functional in humans * Disappears  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Analogous to kidney of amphibians. * Formed of tubules & a duct * Functions temporarily * Mesonephric duct: in females only the distal part persists. In males the whole duct persists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Starts to function at 9th week.

Metanephros

- Metanephros is the **permanent** kidney. The previous systems are **temporary**.
- Formed of 2 origins:
 - 1) **Ureteric bud** (derived from mesonephric duct): Gives collecting part of kidney.
 - 2) **Metanephric blastema** (mass): Gives excretory part of kidney.

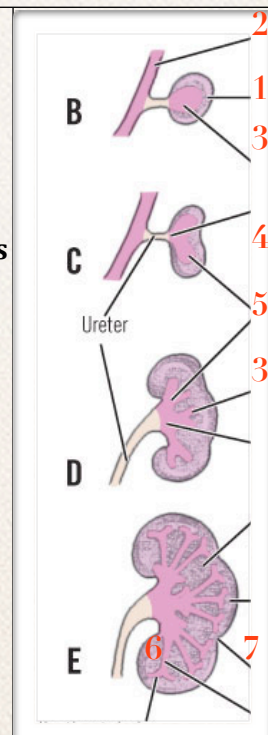
COLLECTING PART

Ureteric bud(1) elongates & penetrates metanephric mass(2)

Stalk of ureteric bud forms ureter and the cranial end forms renal pelvis(3)

Branching of renal pelvis gives 3 major calices (4).
Branching of major calyces gives minor calyces(5).

Continuous branching gives straight(6) then arched (7) collecting tubules.



EXCRETORY PART:

• Each arched collecting tubule(1) is surrounded by a cap of metanephric mass(2).

• The metanephric cap forms the metanephric vesicle.

• The metanephric vesicle elongates to form an S-shaped metanephric tubule(3).

• The end of each tubule forms glomerular (Bowman's) capsule.

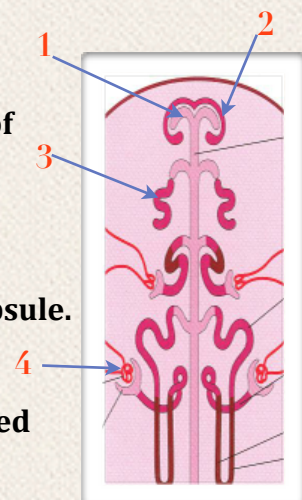
• Each glomerular capsule is invaginated by capillaries (glomerulus)(4).

• The tubule lengthens to form: proximal & distal convoluted tubules + loop of Henle.

• The nephron is formed by fusion of:

- Excretory tubule formed of metanephric mass (cap).
- Arched collecting tubule formed of ureteric bud.

At full term, each kidney contains: 800,000 - 1000,000 nephrons.





Changes that occur during development

* By the 9th week:

• **Change in position:** The kidney **ascends** from pelvis to abdomen & attains its adult position: caudal to the suprarenal gland which halt their ascent.

• **Change in blood supply:** As the kidney ascends, its blood supply changes from renal branches of **common iliac** arteries into renal branches of **abdominal aorta**.

• **Rotation:** Initially, hilum is ventral, then **rotates medially** about 90° & becomes medial.

* Changes after birth:

• Increase in size due to elongation of tubules and increase in connective tissue between tubules.

• The number of nephrons persists throughout adult life. **No further increase.**

• Disappearance of kidney lobulation.

The fetal kidney

• Glomerular filtration begins at **9th week**.

• At 9th week, kidney attains its adult position & receives its supply from renal artery, its hilum is rotated medially.

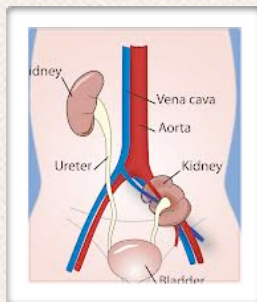
• Kidney is subdivided into lobes that are visible externally.

• Lobulation *diminishes* at the end of fetal period. (Not disappear)

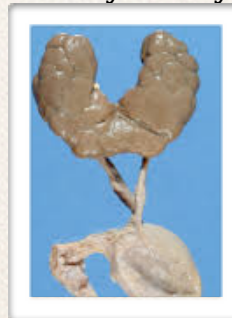
• Nephron formation is **complete** at birth.

Anomalies of the kidney

- **Pelvic kidney:** failure of ascent of one kidney (ureter is short)[1].
- **Horseshoe kidney:** the poles of both kidneys (usually the lower poles) fuse; the kidneys have a lower position than normal but with normal function[2].
- **Unilateral renal agenesis:** due to absence of one ureteric bud.
- **Supernumerary kidney:** an additional kidney. Due to development of 2 ureteric buds.
- **A- Right side (kidney):** malrotation of kidney.
- **B- Left side (kidney):** bifid ureter & supernumerary kidney.



{1}



{2}



• Kidneys & ureters originate from nephrogenic ridge of intermediate mesoderm.

• During development, 3 systems appear:

- ★ Pronephric: *in cervical region*, not function.
- ★ Mesonephric: *in thorax & abdomen*, function temporarily, mesonephric duct gives ureteric bud.
- ★ Metanephric: *in pelvis*, permanent kidney.

○ Ureteric bud gives: ureter + collecting part of kidney (calyces, straight & arched collecting tubules).

○ Metanephric mass gives: excretory part of kidney (Bowman capsule, proximal & distal convoluted tubules, loop of Henle).

Timeline

• **By 4th week:**

○ Appearance of Pronephric system (beginning of)

○ Appearance of Mesonephric system (end of)

• **By 5th week:**

○ Appearance of Metanephric system.

• **By 9th week:**

○ Glomerular filtration begins.

○ Kidney attains its adult position.

○ Kidney receives its arterial supply from aorta.

○ Kidney completes rotation.

• **At full term:**

○ Nephron formation is complete.

○ Lobulation of kidney diminishes.

• **After birth:**

○ Lobulation disappears.

○ Kidney increases in size due to elongation of existing tubules not due to increase in number of nephrons.

○

QUESTIONS

1- Which one of the following events happens by 9th week?

- a) Nephron formation is complete
- b) Disappearance of kidney lobulation
- c) Kidney attains its adult position
- d) Metanephric system appears

2- Which one of the following structures is a derivative of the metanephric mass?

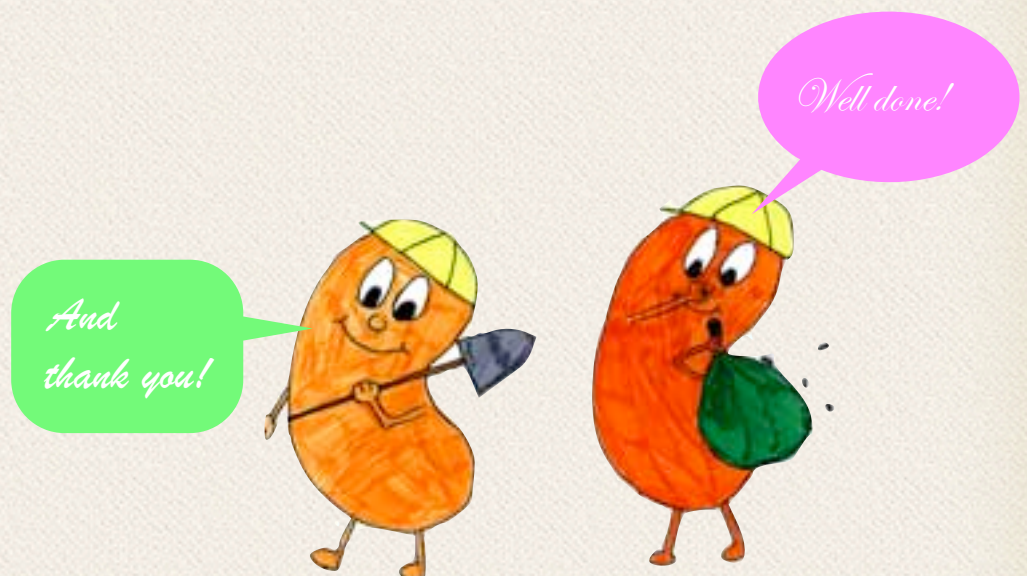
- a) Ureter
- b) Collecting tubule
- c) Glomerulus
- d) Proximal convoluted tubule

3- Which one of the following best describes the adult kidney?

- a) An additional number of nephrons develops after birth
- b) Lies inferior to the adrenal glands
- c) Lobulations are visible
- d) Is supplied by branches of the common iliac arteries

3- Failure of one kidney to develop is due to..

- a) Absence of one ureteric bud
- b) Malrotation during development
- c) Failure of kidney to ascend
- d) Development of two ureteric buds



Answers: C-D-B-A