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## 50 Years Ago in *THE JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS*

### Treatment of Renal Vein Thrombosis in Infancy: Fewer Surgical Interventions, More Survivors

Mauer SM, Fraley EE, Fish AJ, Najarian JS. Bilateral renal vein thrombosis in infancy: report of a survivor following surgical intervention. *J Pediatr* 1971;78:266-72.

Renal vein thrombosis (RVT) in infancy is a rare but life-threatening condition with long-term complications. The incidence of symptomatic RVT is 2.2 per 100 000 live births, and bilateral RVT is 25%-30%.<sup>1,2</sup> Risk factors include prematurity, sepsis, dehydration, congenital thrombophilia, central venous catheters, and at least 1 prothrombotic risk factor (found in 53% of cases). At the time "Bilateral Renal Vein Thrombosis in Infancy: Report of a Survivor Following Surgical Intervention" was published, bilateral thrombosis was almost always fatal. Although great progress has been achieved in understanding risk factors and pathophysiology, its diagnosis requires a high index of suspicion; the classical triad of a palpable flank mass, macroscopic hematuria, or thrombocytopenia is only present in 22% of cases, with most displaying only 1 of the signs: macroscopic hematuria (56%), thrombocytopenia (47.5%), or palpable flank mass (45%). Most cases of RVT occur within 3 days of birth (67%), 26% occur later, and only 7% in utero.<sup>1</sup> Contrast angiography was the only diagnostic modality available for this entity 50 years ago. It remains the gold standard but is rarely used, as safer and equally effective modalities, such as renal ultrasonography with Doppler, have emerged. Management includes thrombolysis and anticoagulation for 1-3 months.<sup>3</sup> Surgical intervention is rarely required. Mortality is 3% in all cases of RVT (unilateral or bilateral) and relates to underlying medical conditions that also cause RVT.<sup>1</sup> Long-term complications include hypertension (20%), kidney atrophy (70%), and chronic kidney disease requiring renal-replacement therapy in 3% (only in bilateral RVT).<sup>2</sup> An important key factor to today's successful management of RVT is a multidisciplinary team of neonatologists, radiologists, hematologists, and nephrologists.

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