

# ACEU

## Hydronéphroses et Méga-uretères



**DIU Urologie Pédiatrique 2013**

**Marc-David LECLAIR**  
Hôpital Mère-Enfant. NANTES. FRANCE

# Plan

**1. Hydronéphroses**

**2. Méga-uretères**

# Hydronephrosis & PUJ Obstruction

*Where do we stand?*

SIU World meeting. BERLIN 2011



Prof. Marc-David LECLAIR

Children's University Hospital. NANTES. FRANCE



UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

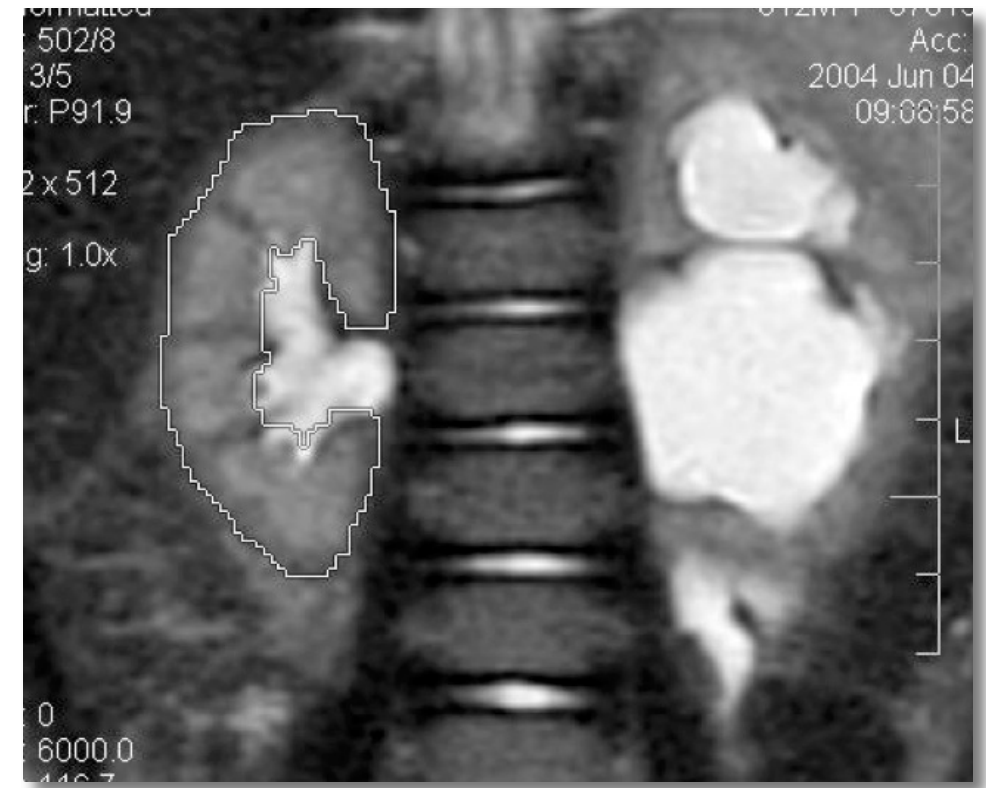


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# What is hydronephrosis ?

- **Pathological dilatation of the renal pelvis and renal calyces**
- **a radiological sign**
- **Several aetiologies**
  - high urinary output
  - VUR
  - developmental abnormalities of upper-tract
  - renal dysplasia
  - **obstruction**





# Hydronephrosis : the two challenges

- **Prove the presence of an obstruction**
- **Manage the population descended from the prenatal screening**

# What is Obstruction ?

- **Dilatation does not always mean Obstruction**
- **Dilatation may result from**
  - morphological variations in conjunction with high urine output
  - dystrophia : sequellae of prenatal obstruction
  - active obstruction

# What is Obstruction ?

- « Some impediment to the flow of urine...  
which, if left untreated,  
would cause progressive damage to the kidney »
- requires serial observations  
with both morphological and functional studies



# PUJ obstruction

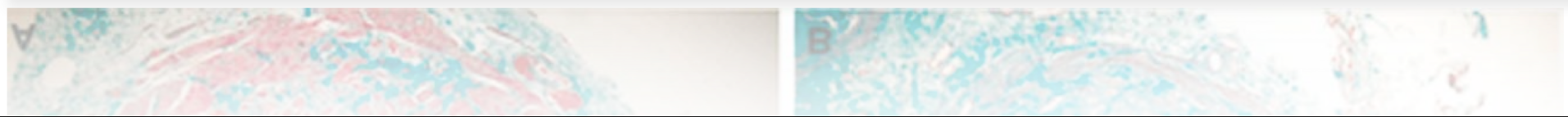
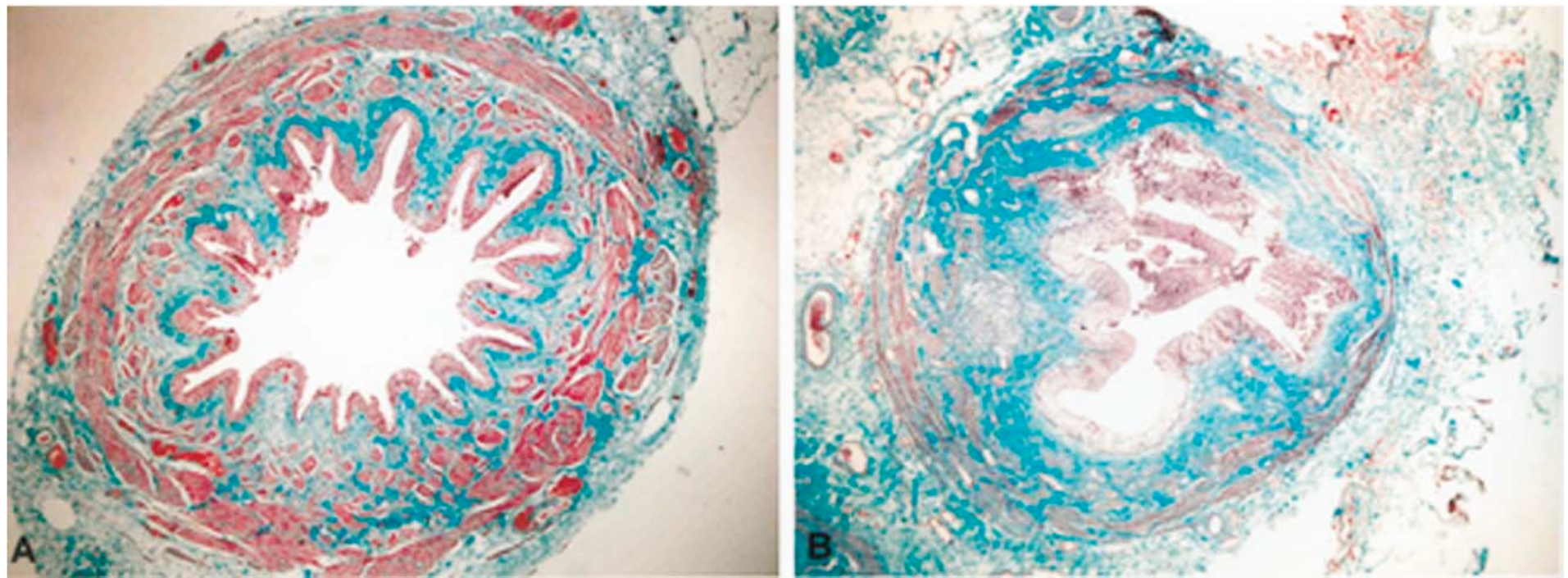
- **Discuss**
  - aetiologies
  - diagnostic procedures
  - management options

## **of unilateral isolated hydronephrosis**

- suspected to be PUJO
- excluding bilateral hydronephrosis
- excluding ureteric dilatation

# Aetiologies of PUJO

- **Intrinsic obstruction**
  - stenotic segment
  - hypoplastic adynamic segment (normal calibre)
    - decrease smooth muscle cells
    - increase collagen fibres



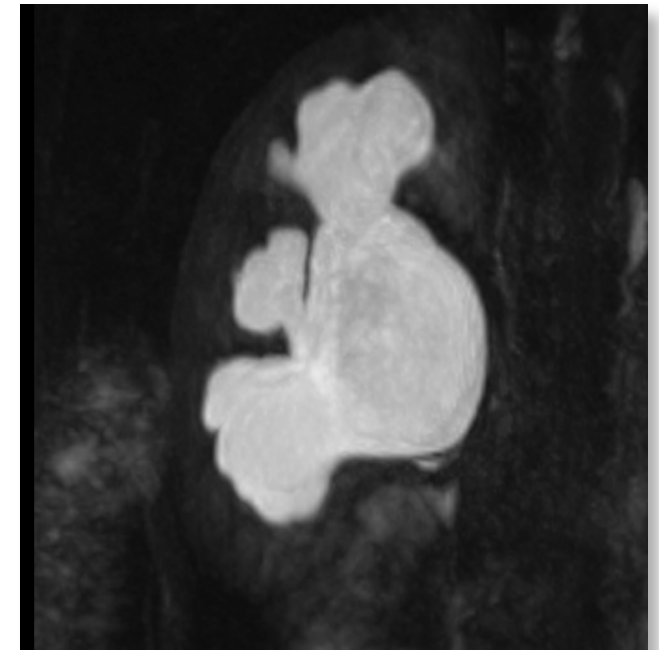


# Aetiologies of PUJO

- **Intrinsic obstruction**
- **Extrinsic obstruction**
  - Fibrous bands, kinks, ureteric folds
    - more frequent in older children ?
    - spontaneous resolution with growth as ureter straightens ?

# Aetiologies of PUJO

- **Intrinsic obstruction**
- **Extrinsic obstruction**
  - Fibrous bands, kinks, ureteric folds
  - Aberrant lower-pole crossing vessels
    - lying anterior to the pelvis
    - causing external anterior compression
    - variable incidence according to population selected
      - prenatal : 5%
      - symptomatic HN : 30-70%

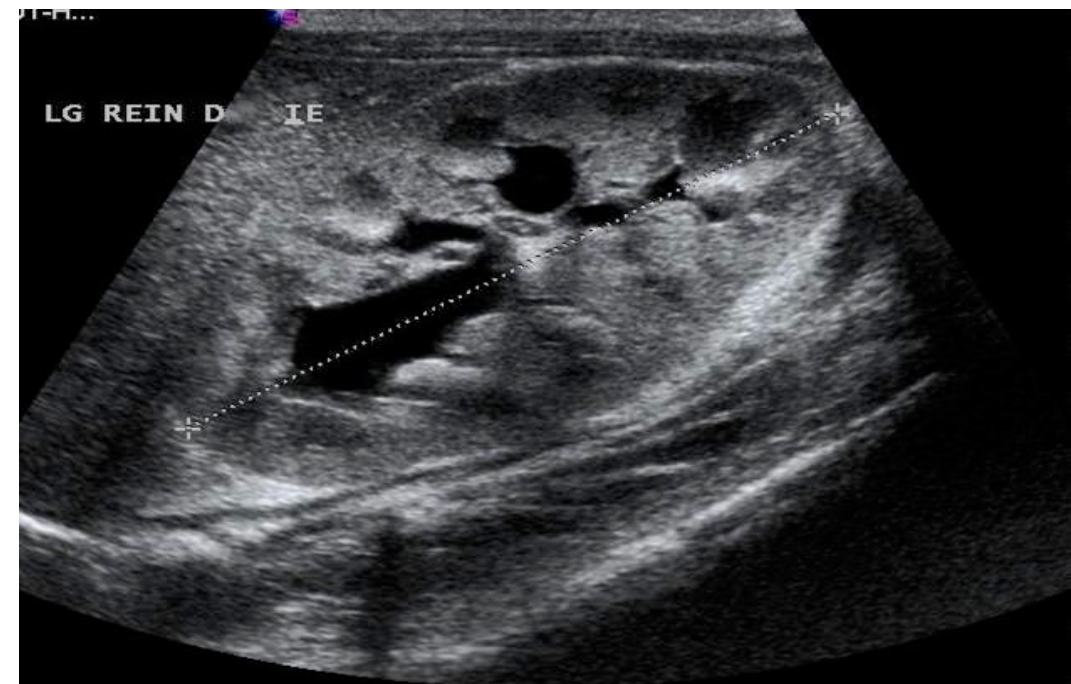


# The obstructive role of crossing vessels ?

- **CV can be associated with intrinsic PUJ obstruction**  
**...but being barely obstructive by themselves**
  - when performing surgery : relocate the CV posteriorly
- **CV can be the only cause of obstruction**
- **CV could induce secondary intrinsic stenosis ?**

# Imaging modalities - US

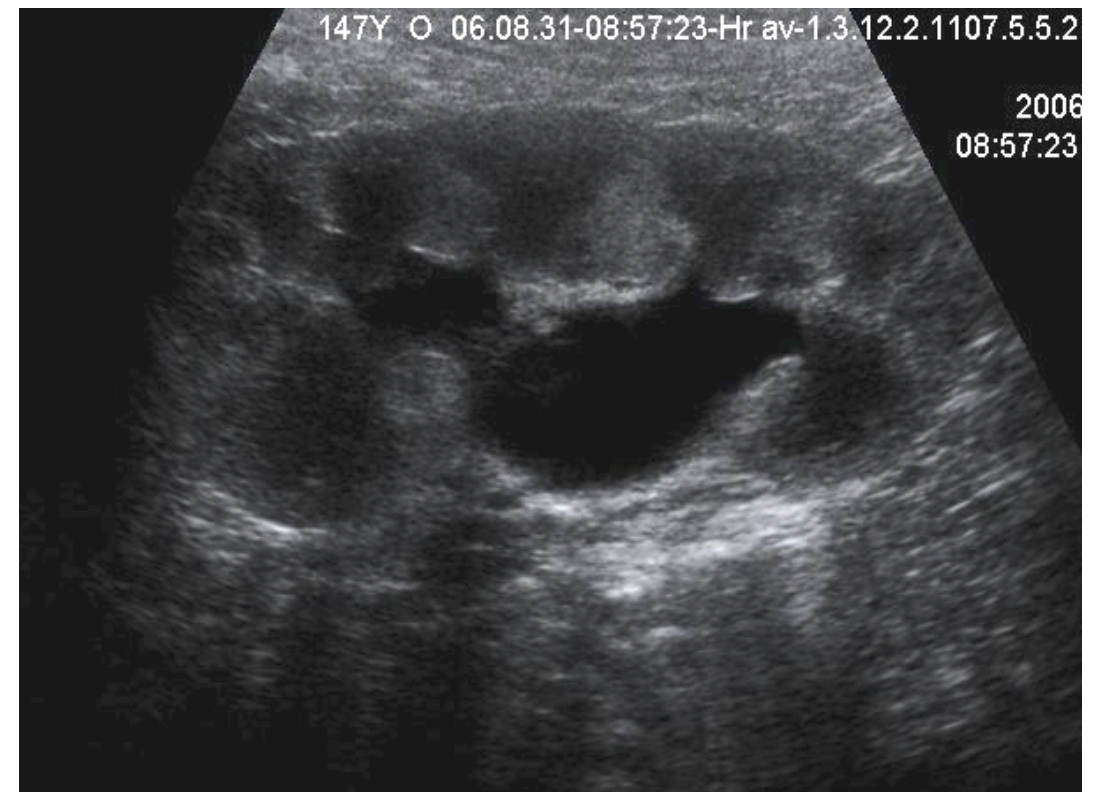
- Renal US is the cornerstone imaging modality in the diagnostic pathway of hydronephrosis
- SFU grading of hydronephrosis
  1. mild dilatation of the pelvis



Maizels. *J Urol* 1992; 148:609

# Imaging modalities - US

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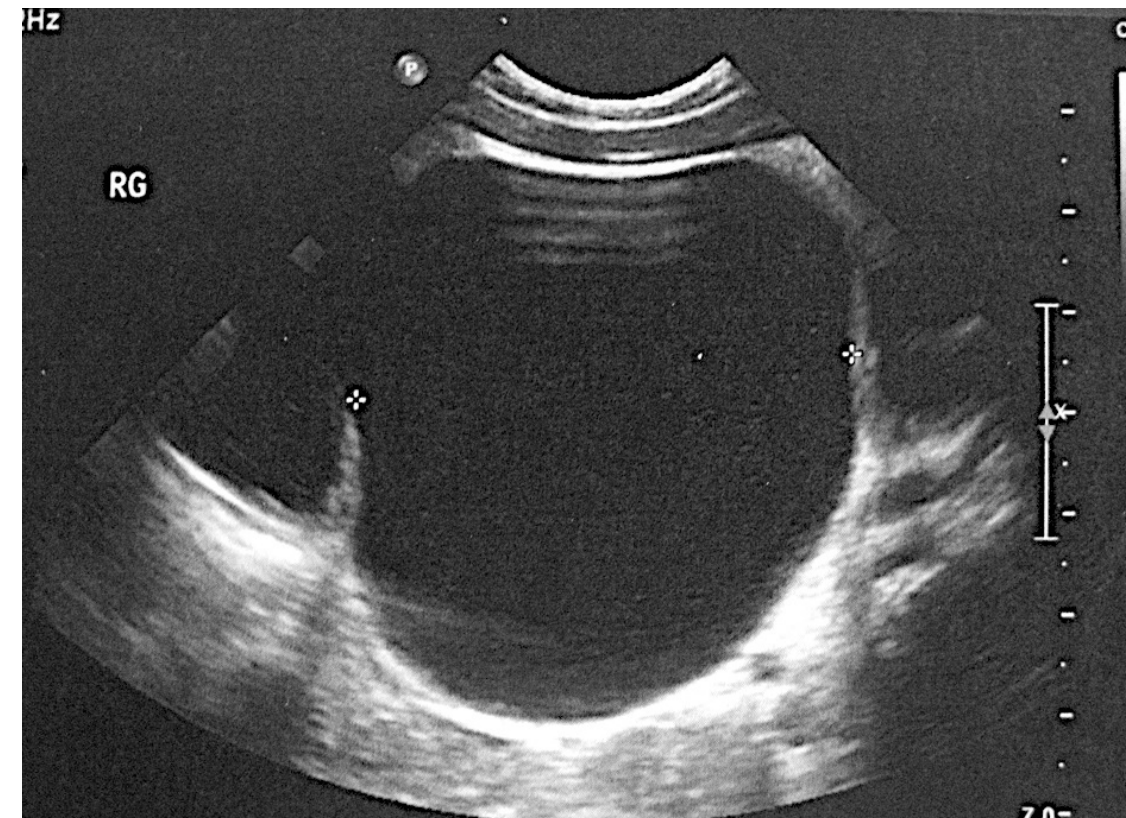
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  1. mild dilatation of the pelvis
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pelvis remains intrarenal
  3. major dilatation of pelvis & calyces  
pelvis extrarenal
  4. major dilatation  
+ parenchymal thinning

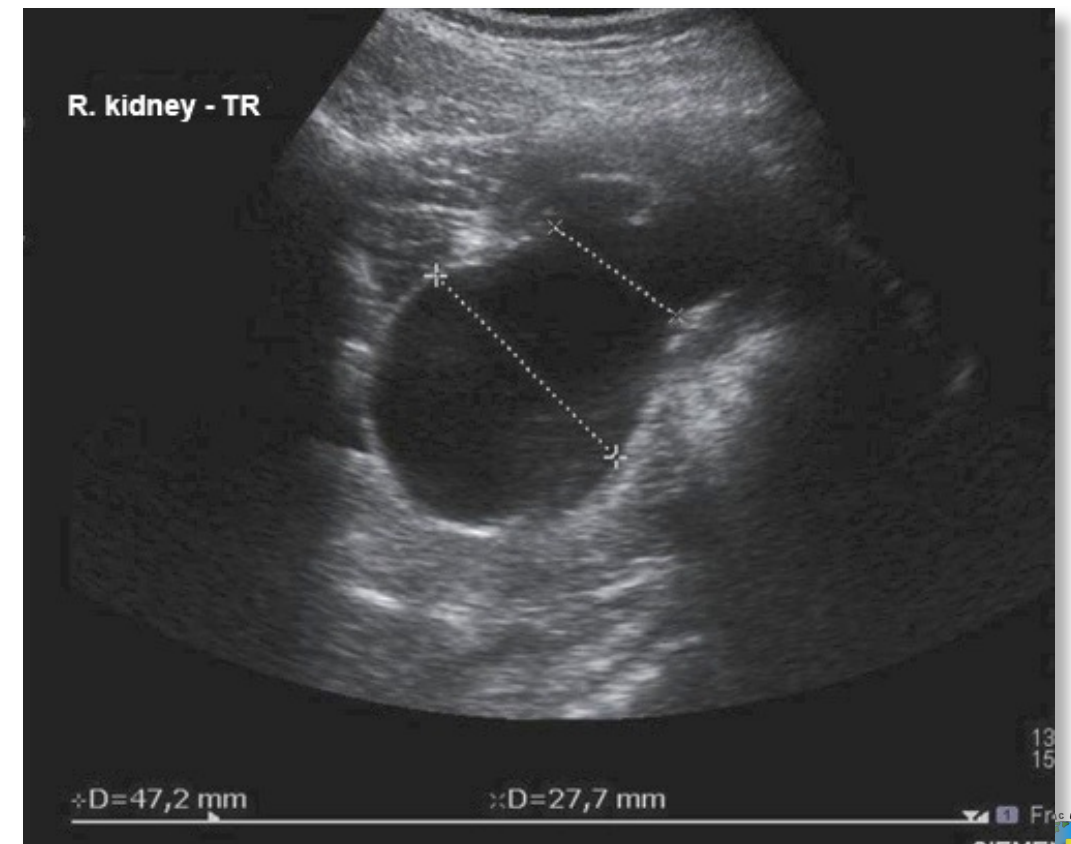
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# Imaging modalities - US

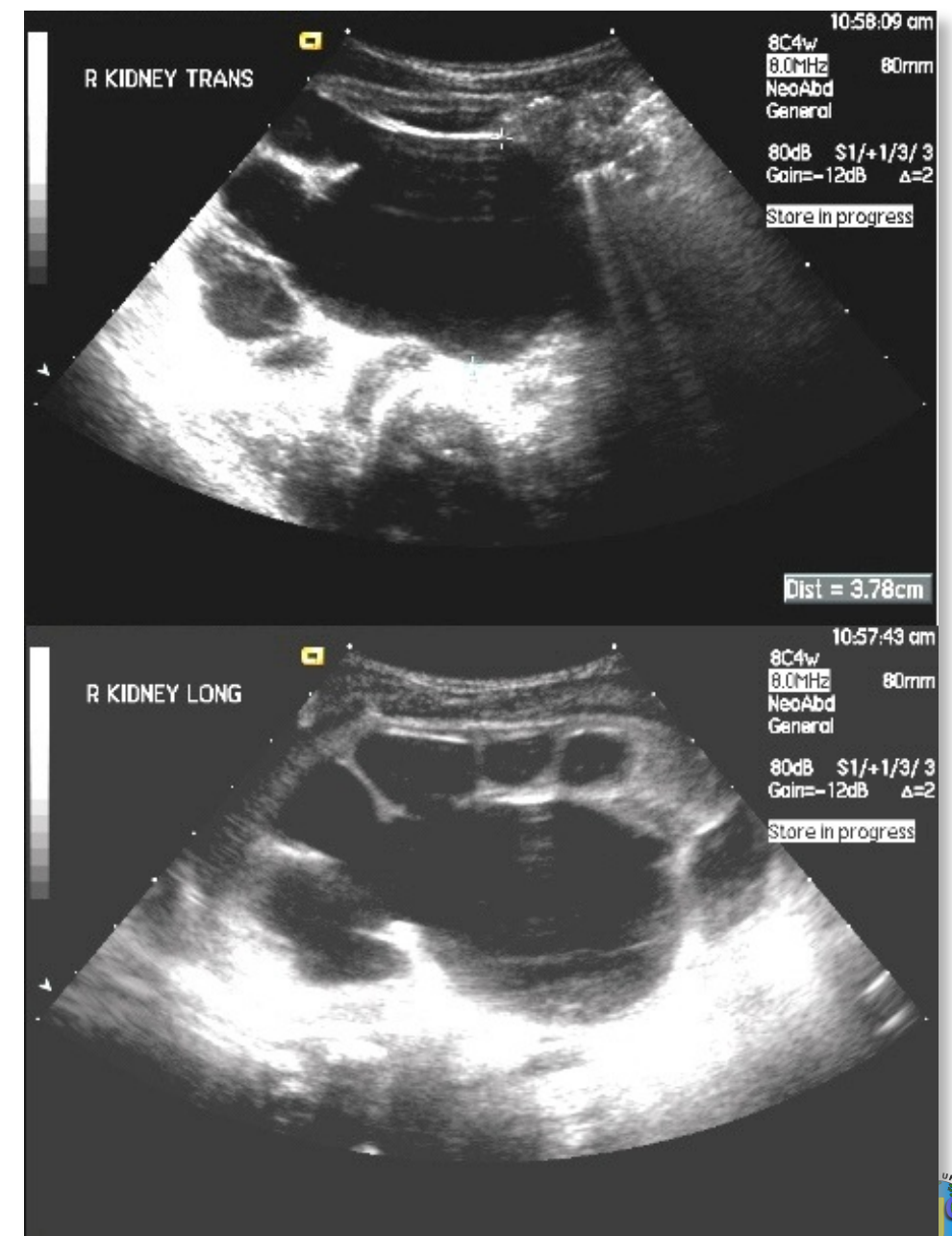
- The most useful parameter is the antero-posterior (AP) pelvic diameter at the level of the renal sinus
  - 18th - 23rd WG > 7 mm
  - 3rd trimester > 10 mm
  - birth > 12 mm

Abnormal



# Imaging modalities - US

- The most useful parameter is the antero-posterior (AP) pelvic diameter at the level of the renal sinus
  - 18th - 23rd WG > 7 mm
  - 3rd trimester > 10 mm
  - birth > 12 mm
- The degree of dilatation of the calyces

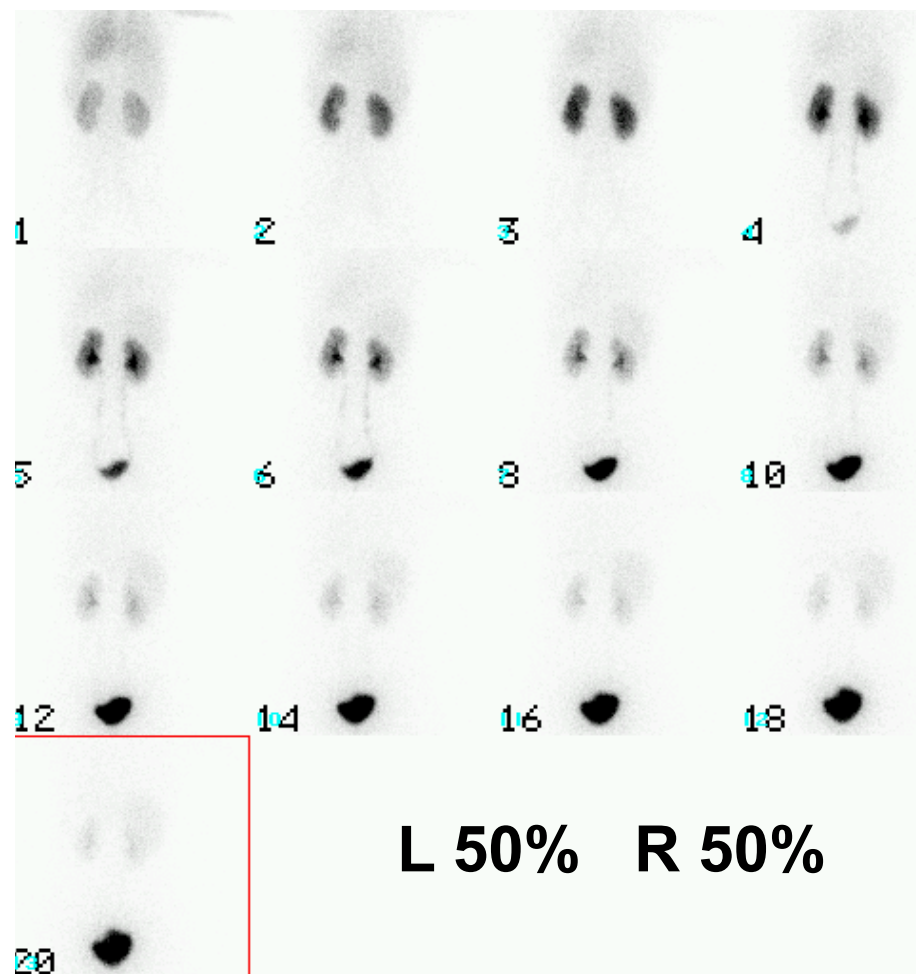


# Isotope imaging - Mag-3

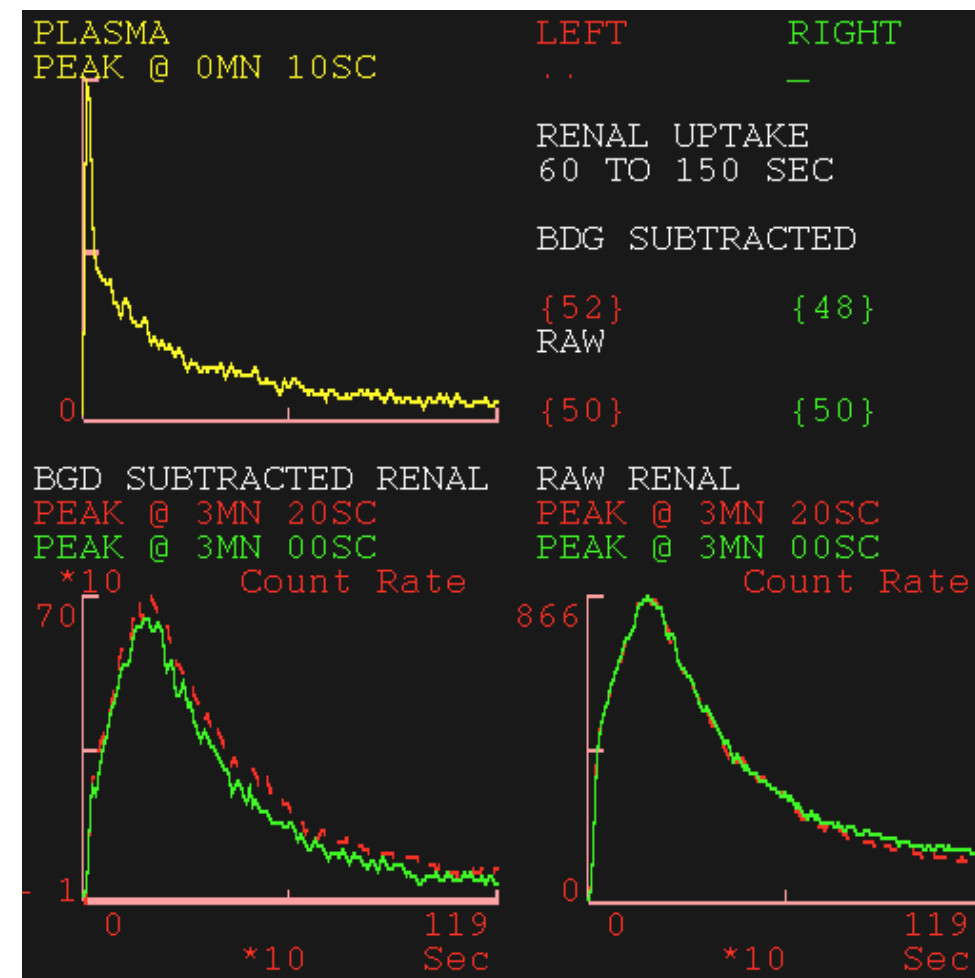
- **Radiopharmaceutical agent :  $^{99}\text{Tc}$ -Mercaptoacetyltriglycerin**
  - high protein binding
  - high tubular excretion
  - low distribution in extra-vascular space
- **Serial dynamic acquisition : time / activity curve**
  - two distinct phases :
    - uptake phase** : differential renal function
    - clearance phase** : urine washout through the collecting system



# Isotope imaging - Mag-3

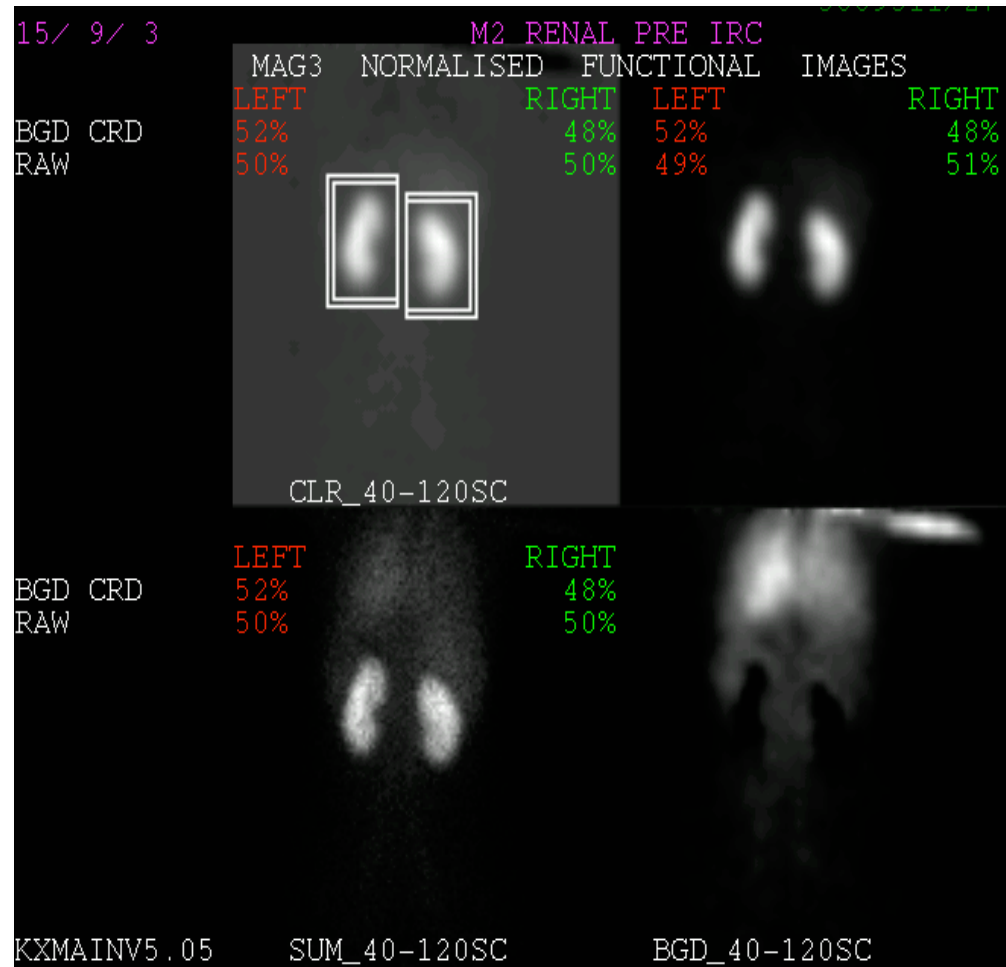


Renal scintigraphy

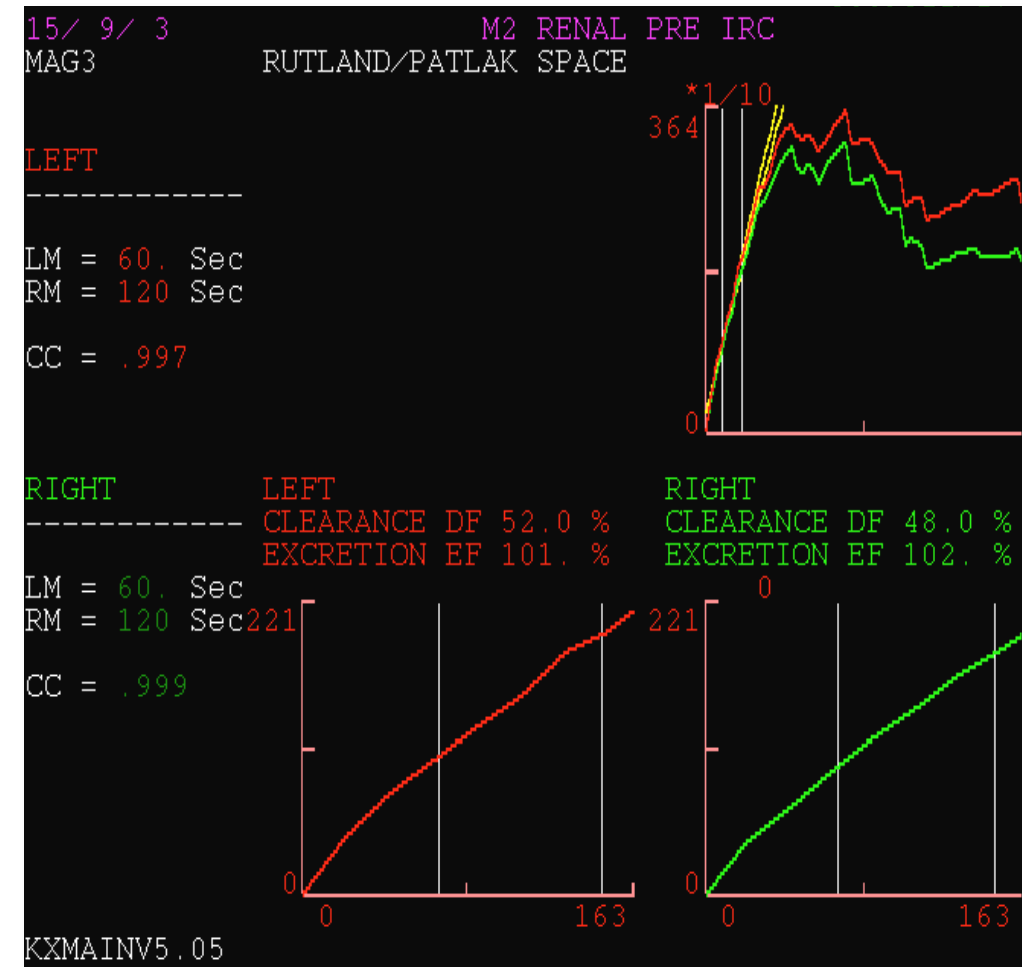


Time activity curves

# Isotope imaging - Mag-3



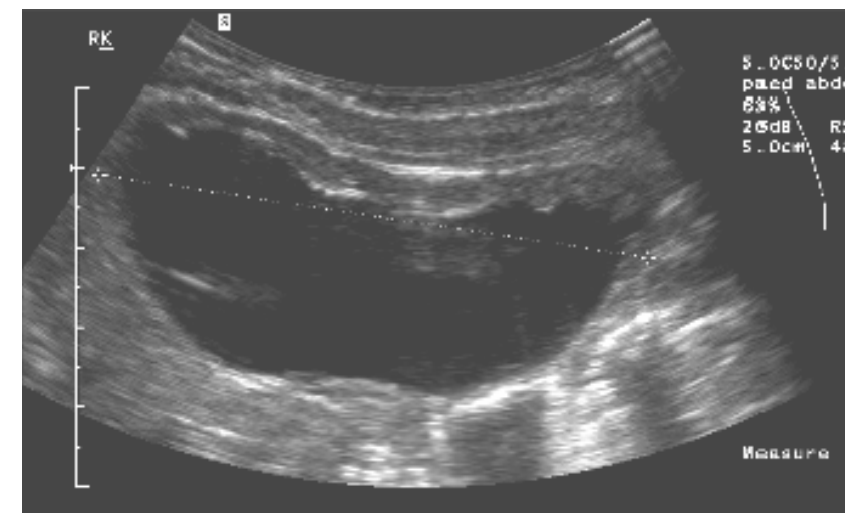
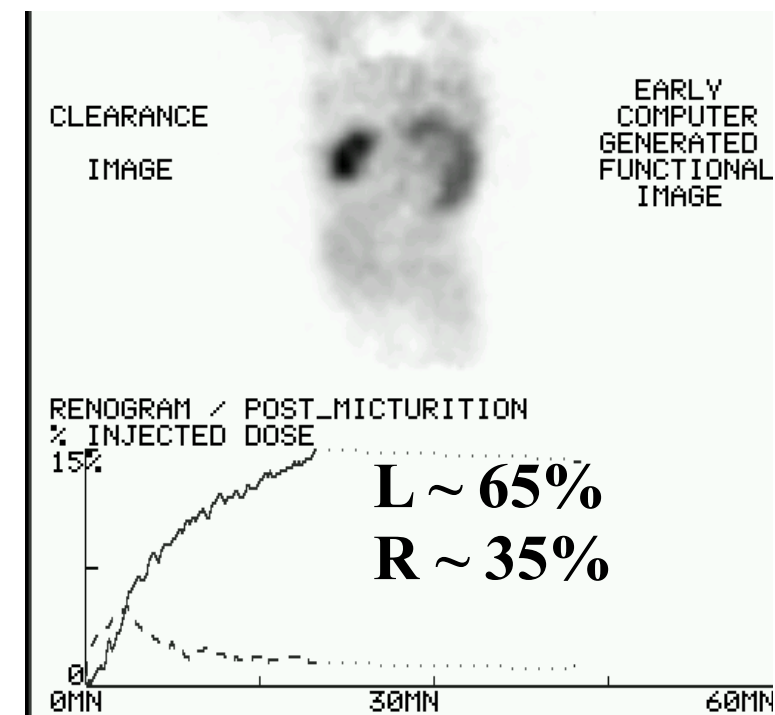
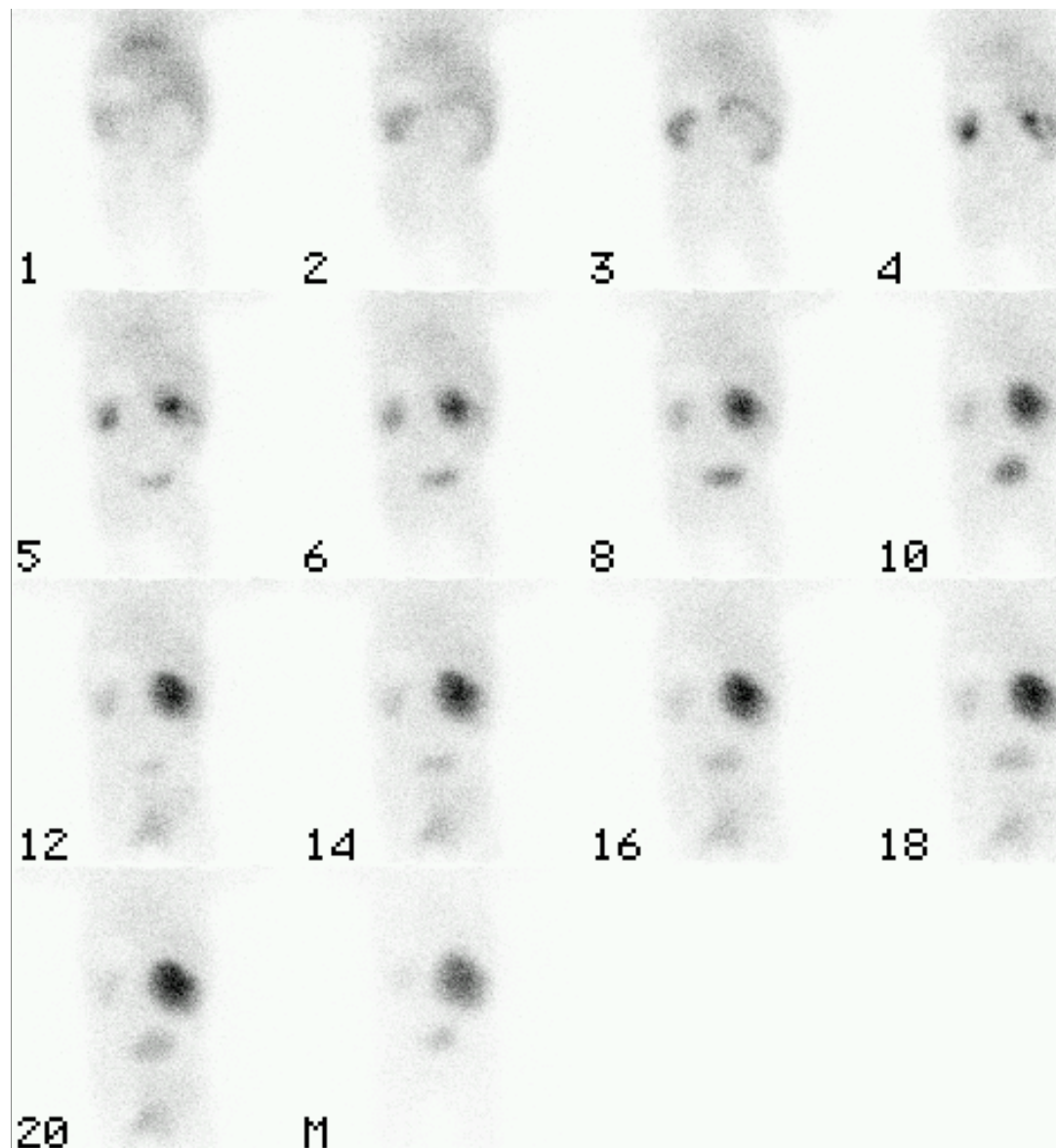
**Regions of interest**  
around the kidney  
with and without  
background subtraction



**Rutland-Patlak plot:**  
rate of uptake by the kidney  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute

# Isotope imaging - Mag-3

- Poor washout : Obstruction or delayed emptying ?



## Drainage depends on :

- **How much urine is produced ?**
  - renal function
    - a poorly functioning kidney will produce less urine than a normal kidney
    - a poorly functioning kidney will clear the isotope slower from the blood
  - hydration status
    - if dehydrated, less & more concentrated urine is produced
- **How big is the collecting system ?**
  - a large pelvis will drain more slowly than a small
- **The anatomy & physiology of the ureter and the bladder**

# Drainage & Obstruction

0022-5347/03/1695-1828/0  
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Vol. 169, 1828–1831, May 2003  
Printed in U.S.A.  
DOI: 10.1097/01.ju.0000062640.46274.21

## IMPAIRED DRAINAGE ON DIURETIC RENOGRAPHY USING HALF-TIME OR PELVIC EXCRETION EFFICIENCY IS NOT A SIGN OF OBSTRUCTION IN CHILDREN WITH A PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS OF UNILATERAL RENAL PELVIC DILATATION

J. AMARANTE, P. J. ANDERSON AND I. GORDON

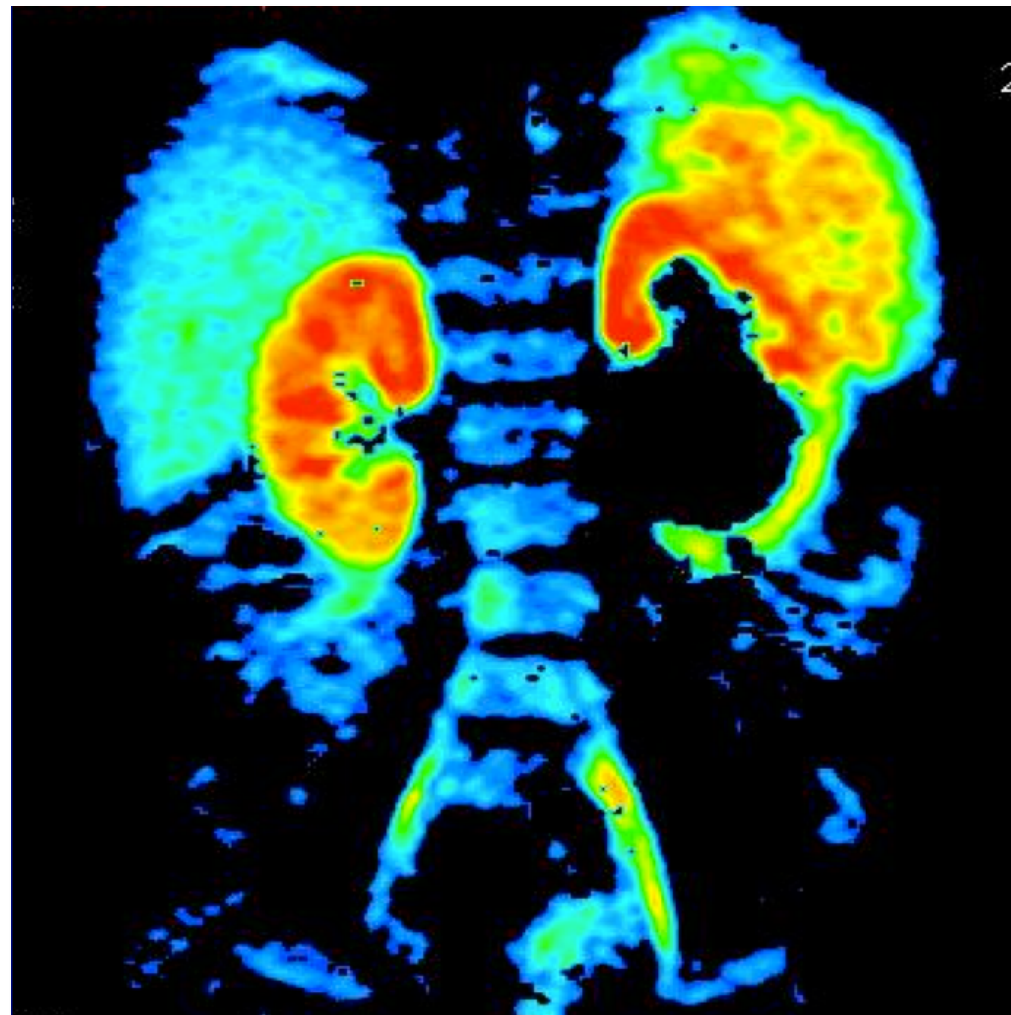
*From the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, United Kingdom*

- **Poor drainage at 20 min., in a child supine, does not necessarily means obstruction**
  - always get a post-micturition view
- **Good drainage = no obstruction**
- **Obstruction =**
  - Poor drainage **AND** decreased DRF or increased pelvic AP diameter



# Imaging modalities - MRI

- **Theoretically combines**
  - detailed anatomical description
  - functional evaluation



# Prenatally diagnosed HN

# Prenatally diagnosed HN

- **Routine antenatal US screening**
  - urological abnormalities 1:500
  - hydronephrosis : 50%
- **Potential for spontaneous resolution of prenatally diagnosed HN**
  - a unique population of asymptomatic healthy newborns
  - dilatation increase  
functional deterioration → Obstruction
  - dilatation stable  
or improving with time → ???

# Management strategy

- **75% of prenatal unilateral hydronephrosis will remain stable or improve if managed conservatively**

Koff. *J Urol* 2000; 164: 1101

# Management strategy

- 75% of prenatal unilateral hydronephrosis will remain stable or improve if managed conservatively *Koff. J Urol 2000; 164: 1101*
- The risk of deterioration correlates with the initial degree of dilatation of pelvis and calyces

AP diameter	surgery
< 20 mm	11 %
20-30 mm	40 %
30-40 mm	90 %
> 40 mm	≈ 100%

Dhillon HK. *BJU* 1998; 81: 39  
& Dhillon HK, *unpublished data*



# Management strategy

- 75% of prenatal unilateral hydronephrosis will remain stable or improve if managed conservatively

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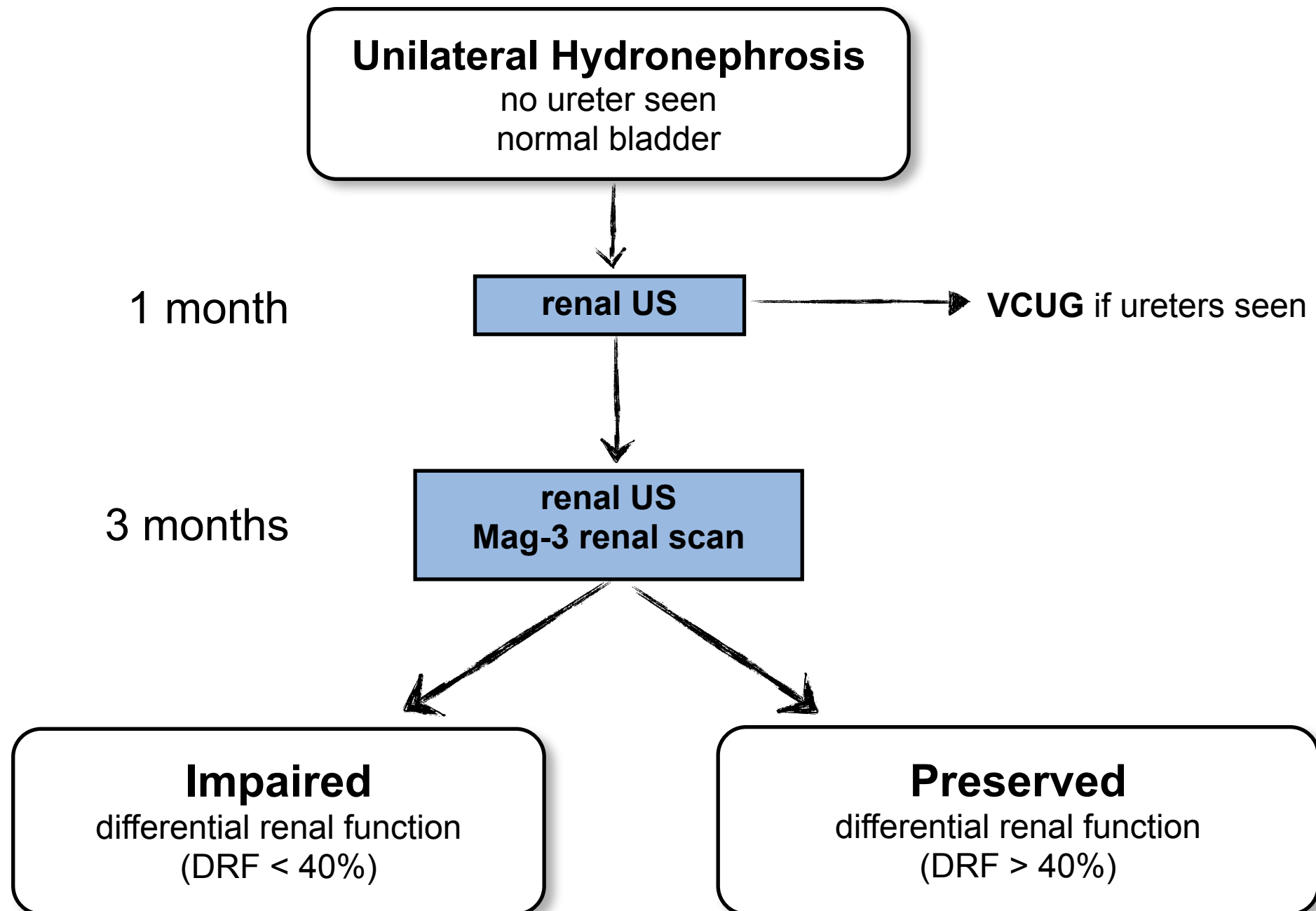
- **It is safe to follow-up with renal US alone and perform MAG-3 if hydro worsens**

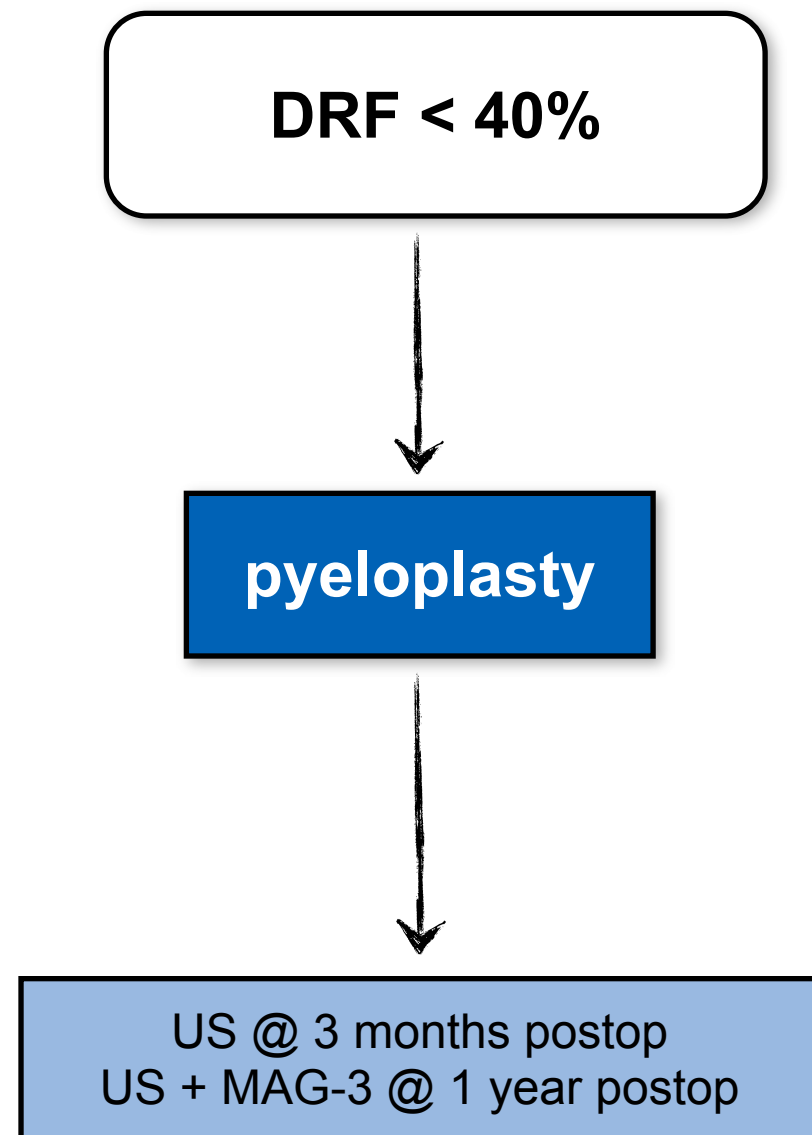
Ransley. *J Urol* 1990; 144: 584

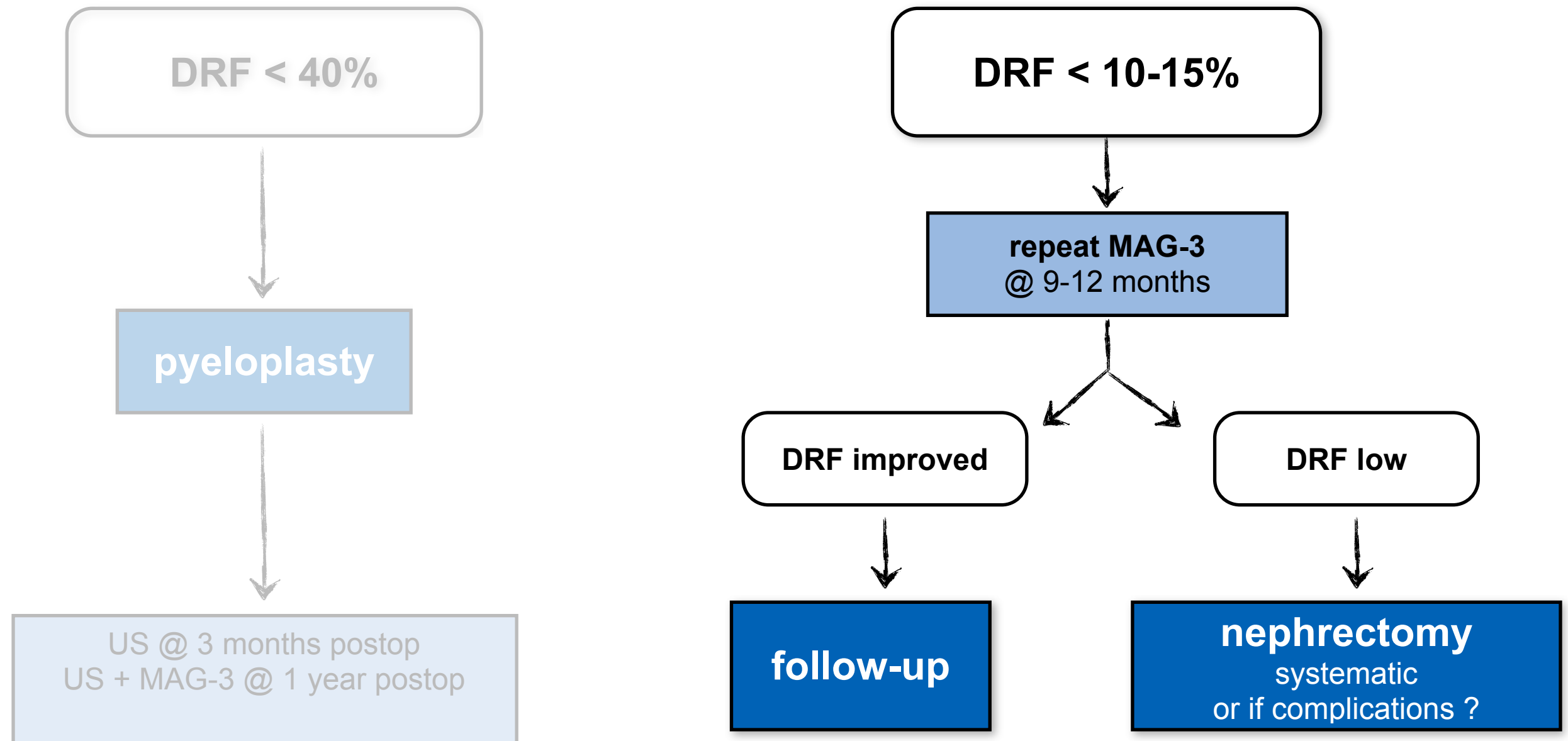
# Management strategy [2]

- **Management of hydronephrosis with impaired DRF is more debated :**
  - if managed conservatively, a significant proportion will improved spontaneously  
Koff. *J Urol* 1994; 152: 593
  - risk of progressive deterioration
  - ultimately, surgery may not impact long term DRF
  - if managed conservatively,  
these children require **serial MAG-3 follow-up**

# Management strategy [3]





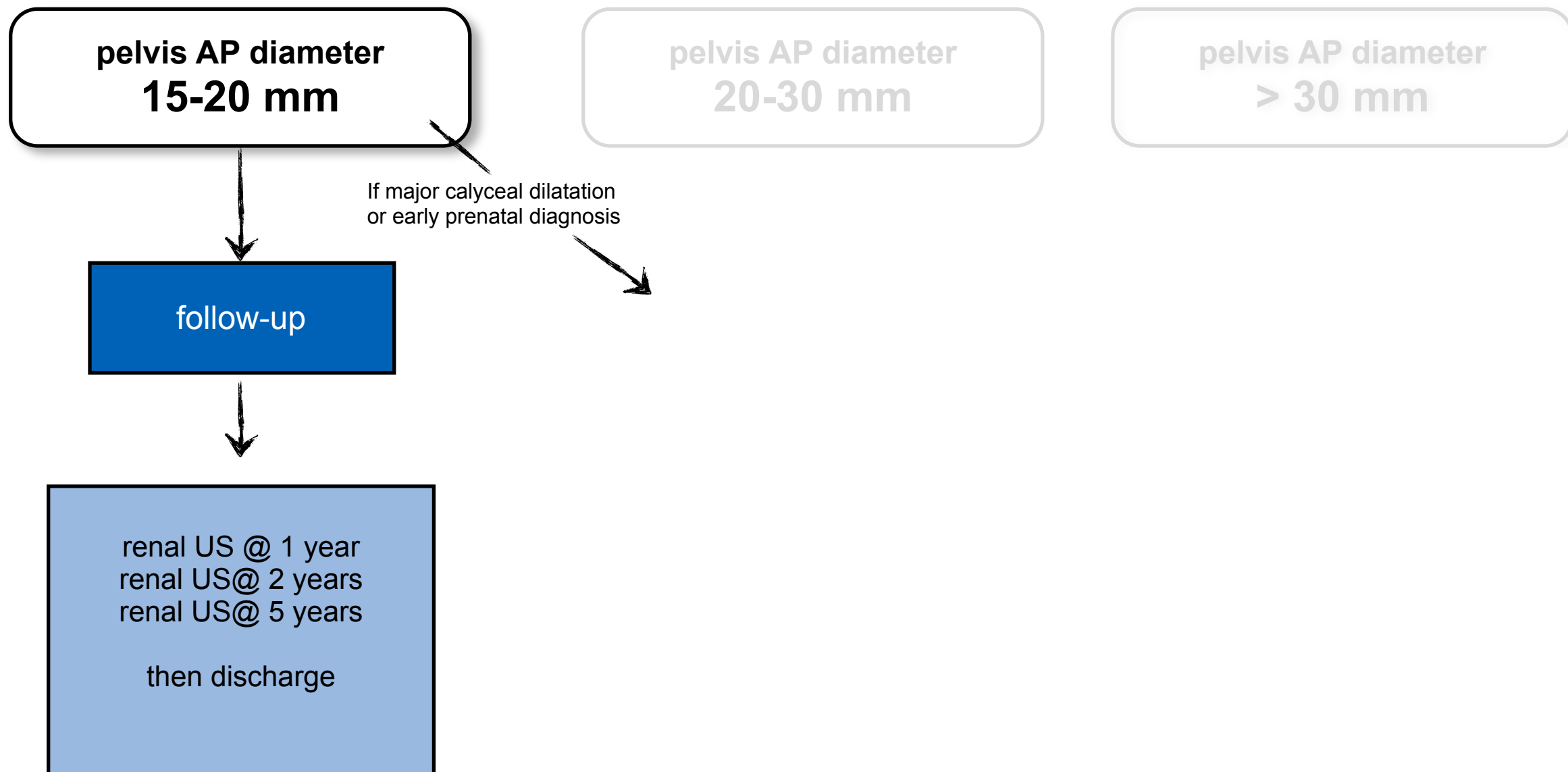


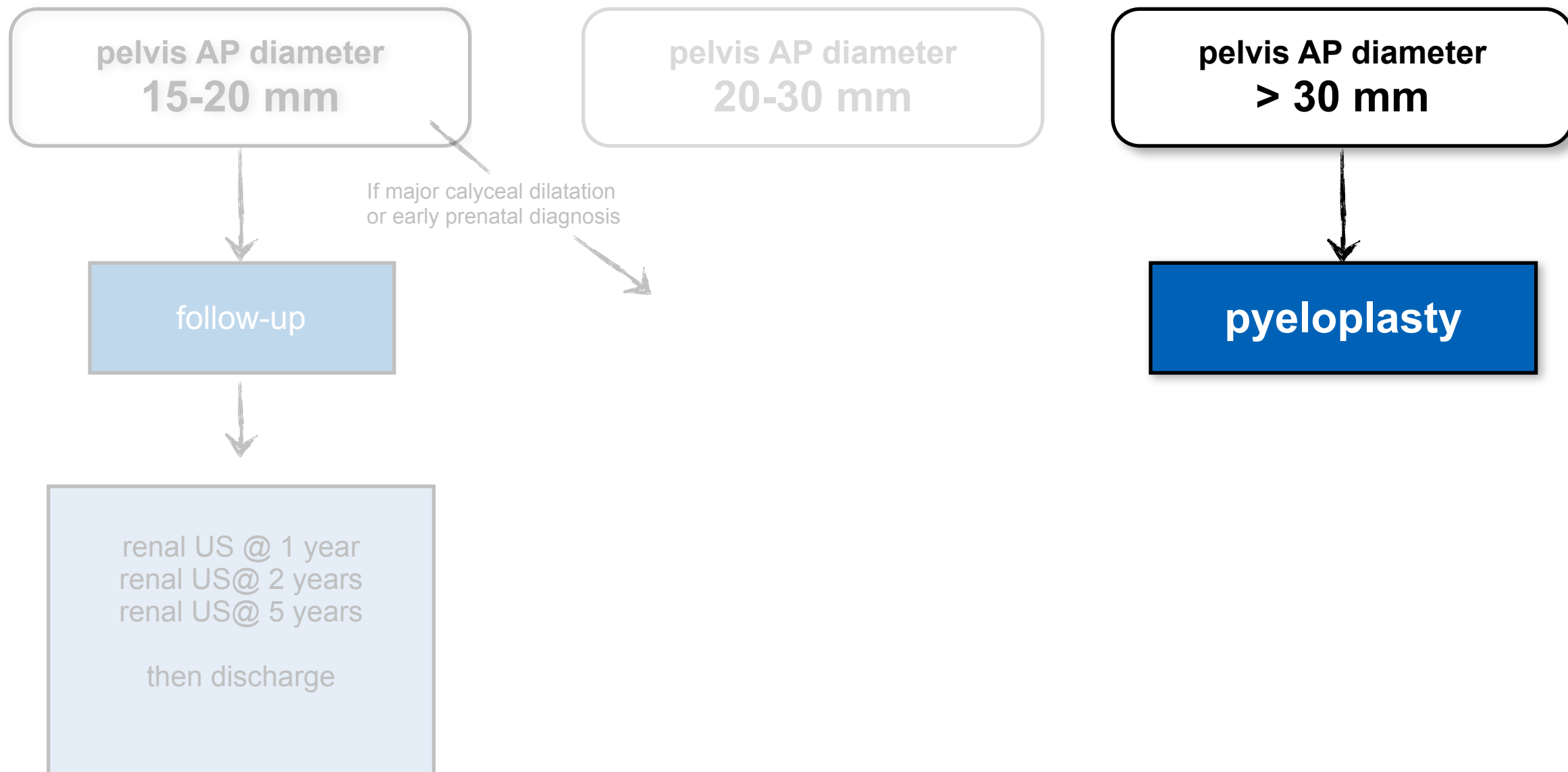


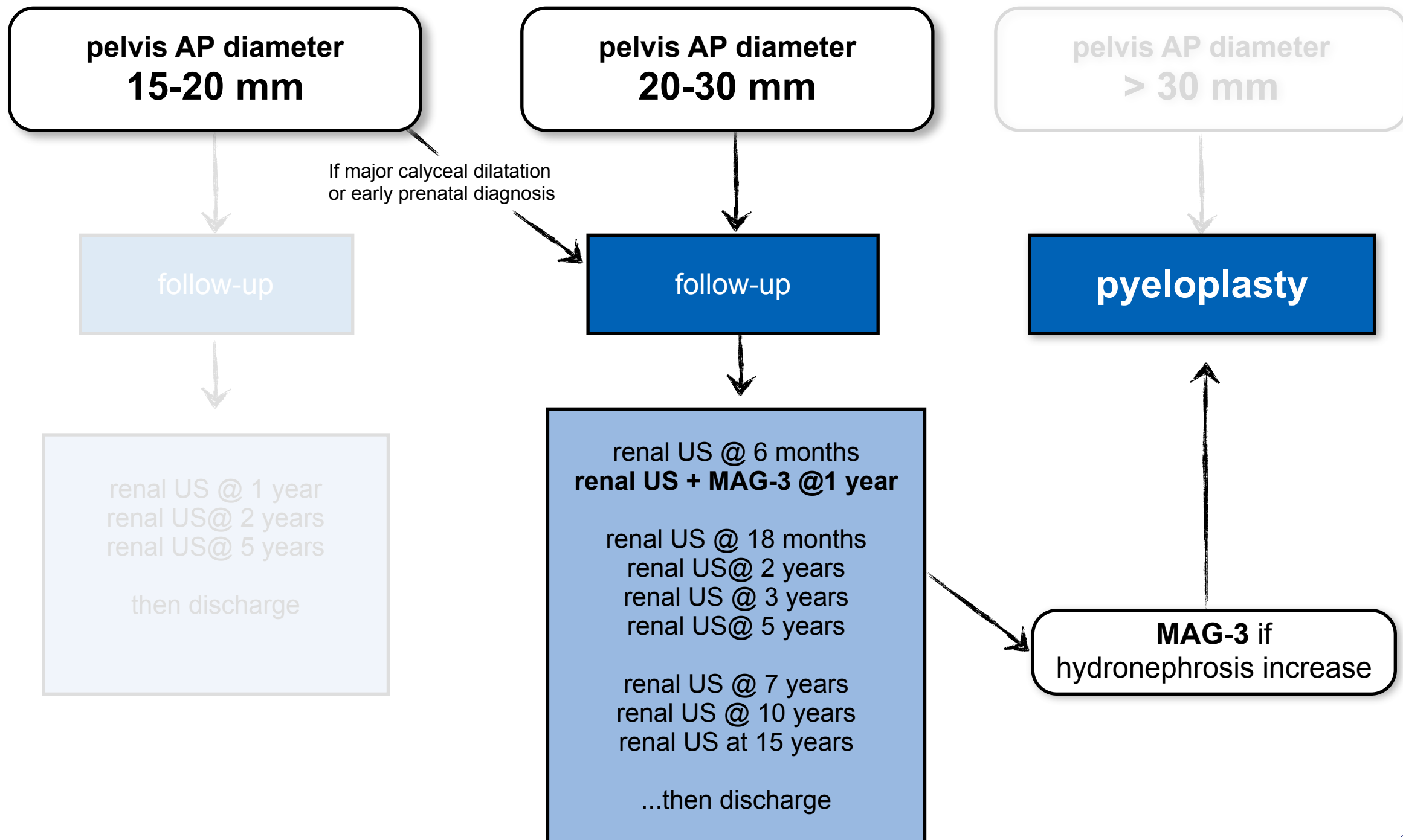
pelvis AP diameter  
**15-20 mm**

pelvis AP diameter  
**20-30 mm**

pelvis AP diameter  
**> 30 mm**







# Symptomatic hydronephrosis

- **Characteristics**

- relatively infrequent
- observed in children with/without prenatal diagnosis
- febrile UTIs, stones, abdominal/loin pain

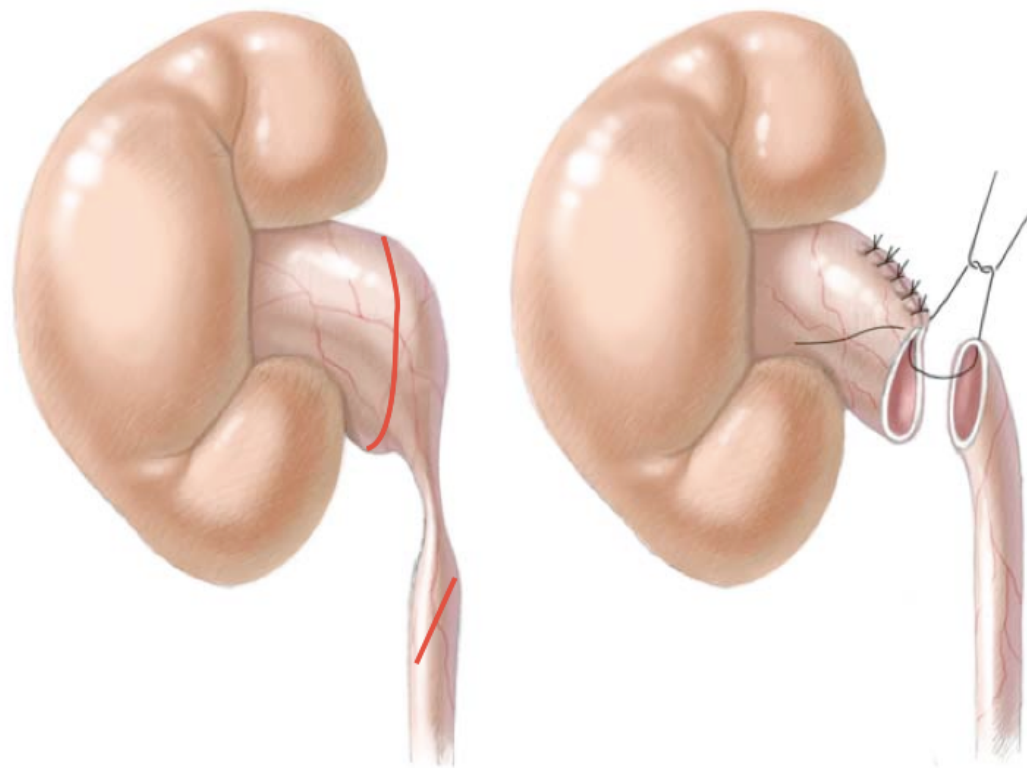
- **Intermittent acute hydronephrosis**

- a specific clinical picture
- older child & adolescent
- acute intermittent loin pain + vomiting
- intermittent hydronephrosis  
(renal US may be normal between episodes)
- high incidence of lower-pole vessels : US, MAG-3,...angio-MRI



# Surgical techniques

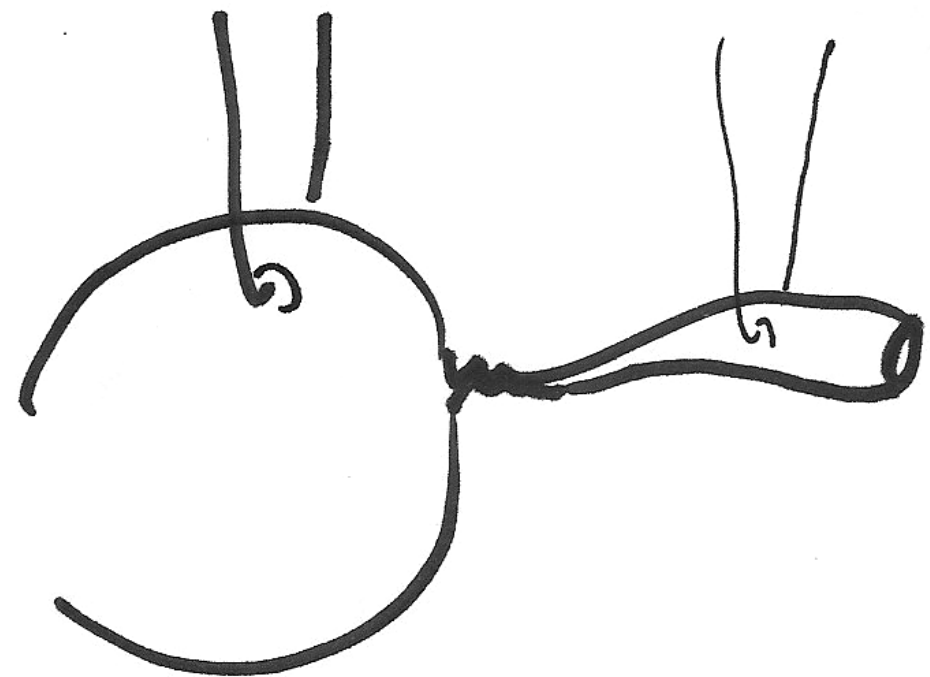
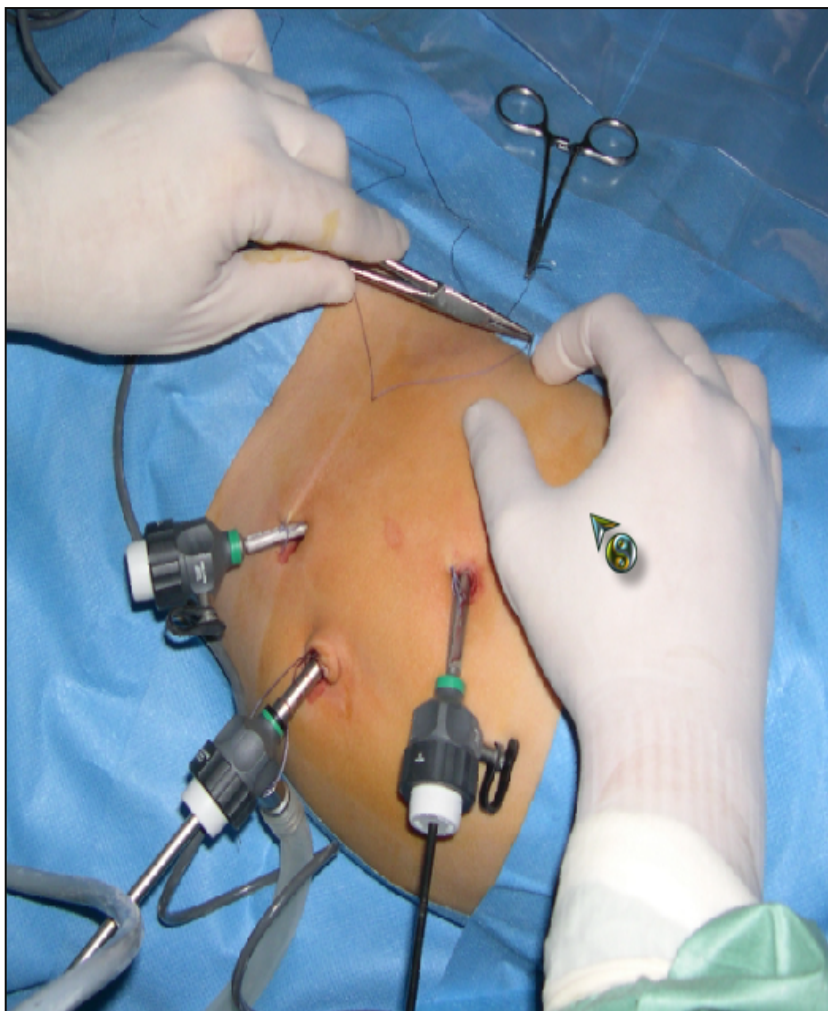
- **Anderson-Hynes dismembered pyeloplasty remains the gold standard**
  - retroperitoneal **open** surgery : lateral or posterior lumbotomy
  - **MIS** : transperitoneal laparoscopy, retroperitoneoscopy, robotic



# Surgical techniques

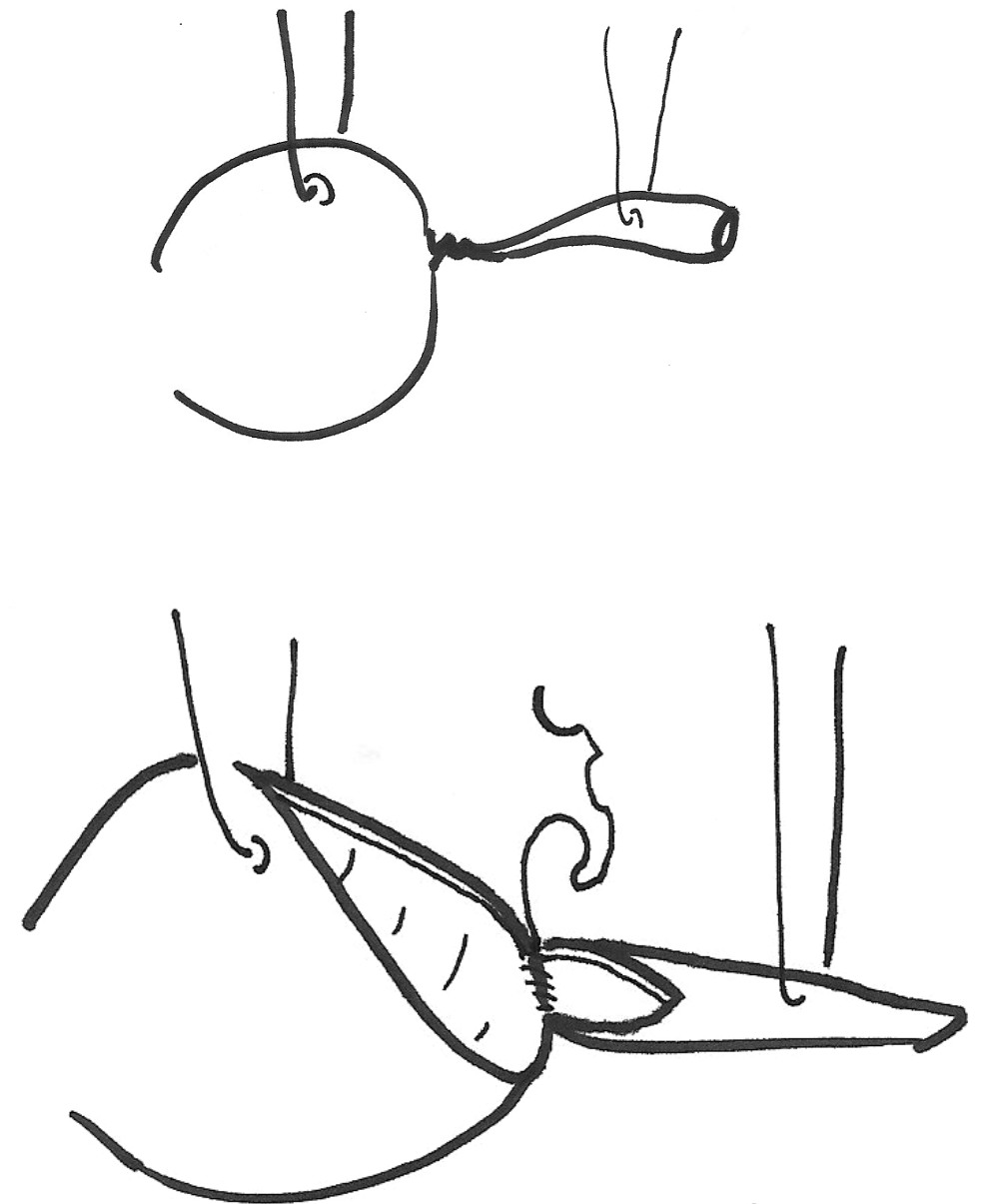
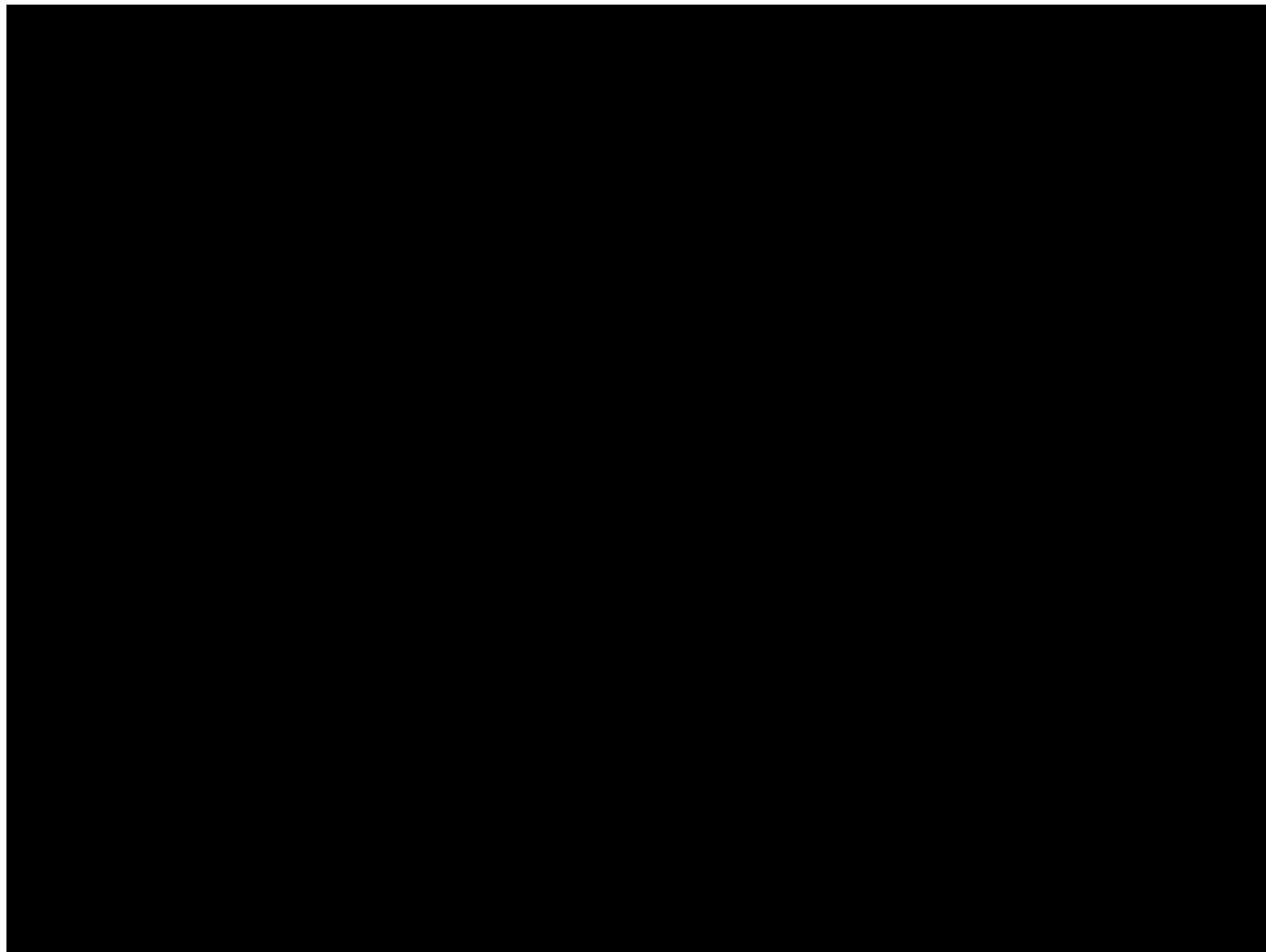
## Transperitoneal approach

- **Suspension of PUJ by stay sutures**

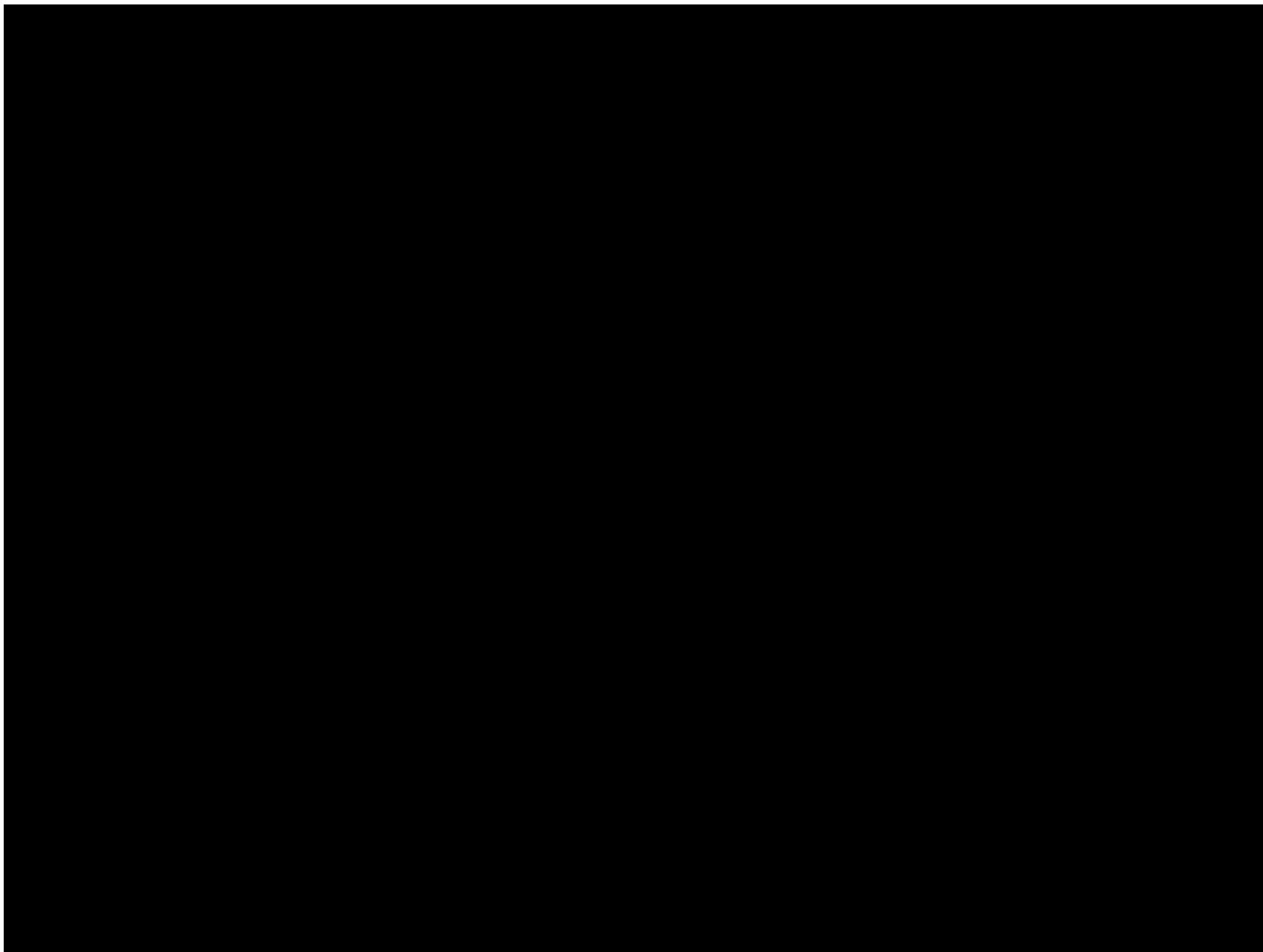


# Surgical techniques

## Transperitoneal approach

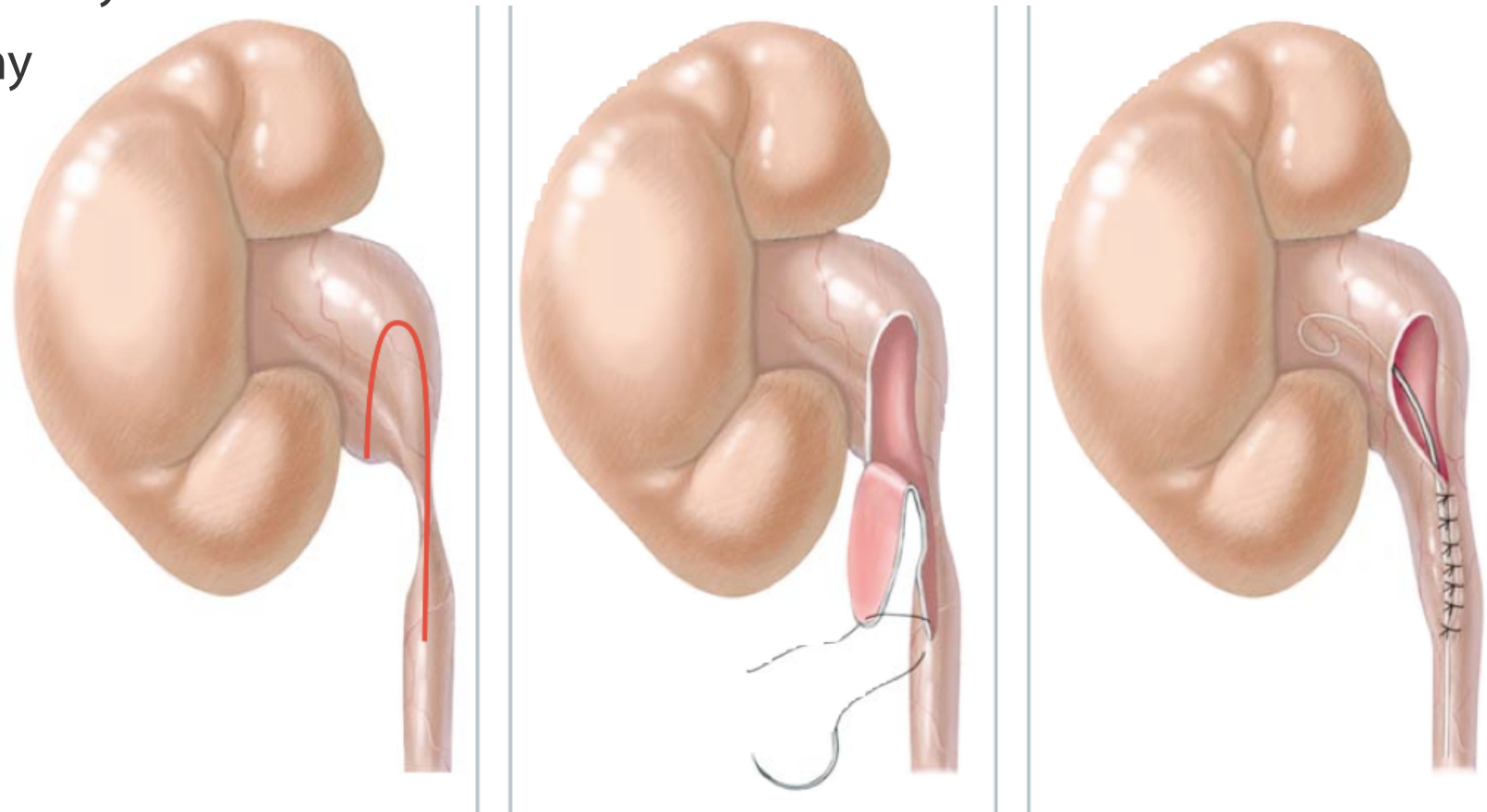


# Surgical techniques



# Surgical techniques

- Anderson-Hynes dismembered pyeloplasty remains the gold standard
  - retroperitoneal open surgery : lateral or posterior lumbotomy
  - MIS : transperitoneal laparoscopy, retroperitoneoscopy, robotic
- « Salvage » procedures should be known
  - Culp-De Weerd pyeloplasty
  - uretero-calicostostomy

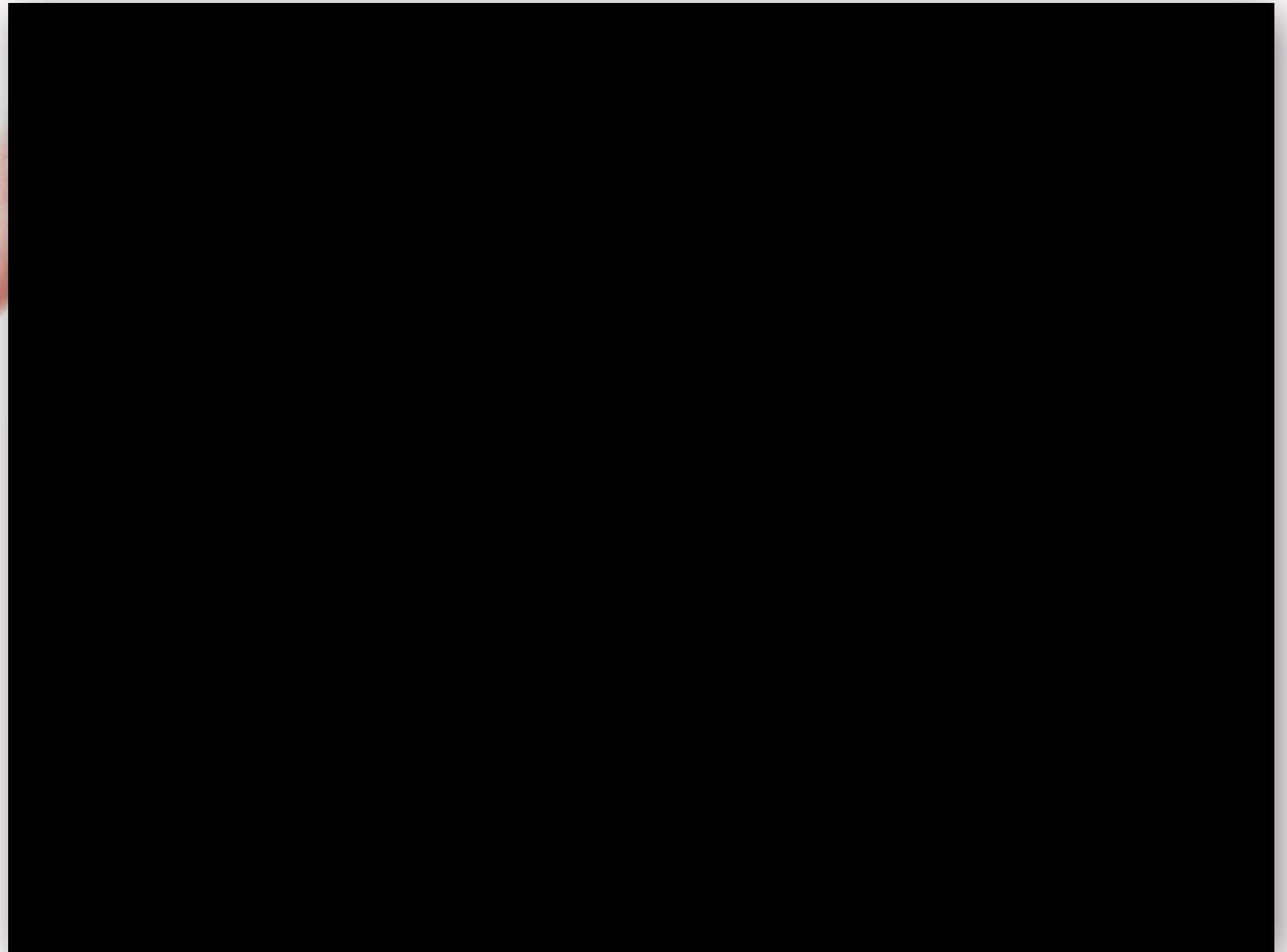
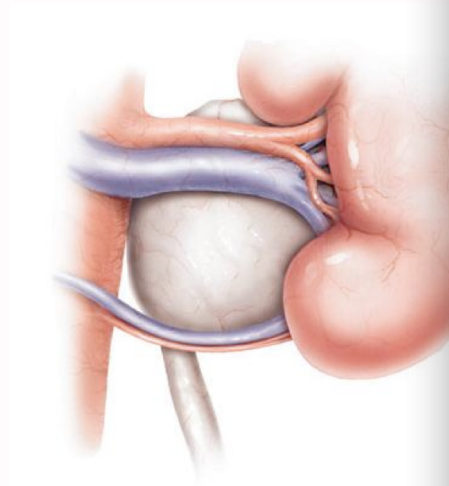




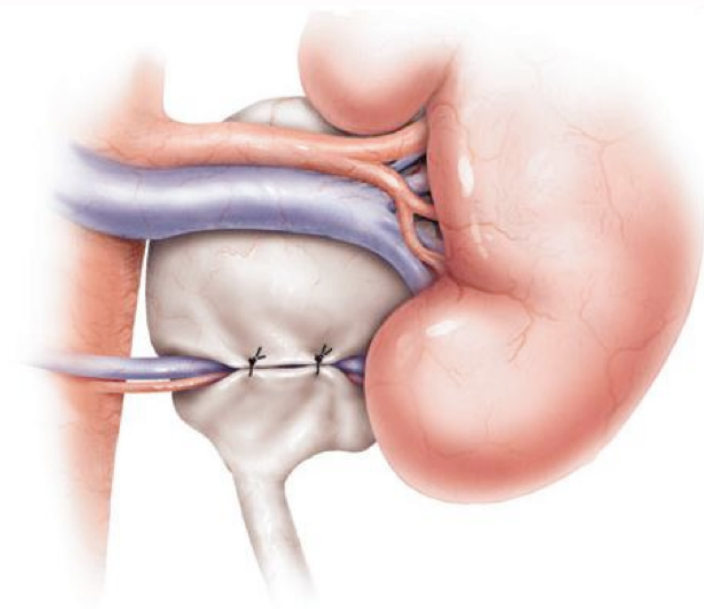
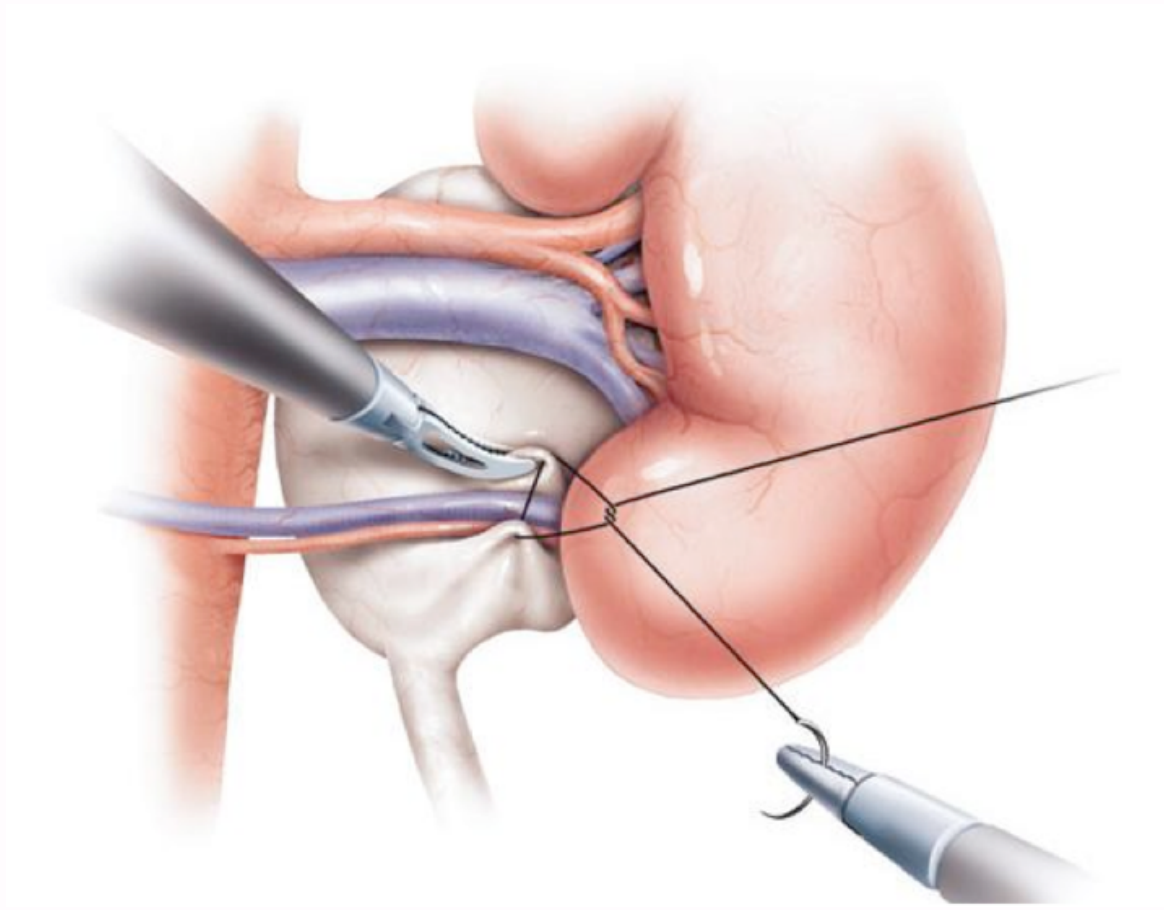
# Surgical techniques

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- « Salvage » procedures should be known
  - Culp-De Weerd pyeloplasty
  - uretero-calicostostomy
- **Vascular hitch procedure : selected indications**
  - intermittent acute hydronephrosis + lower pole vessels  
without intrinsic obstructionGundeti *et al. J Urol* 2008; 180: 1832
  - excellent long-term outcomesVillemagne-T *et al. ESPU* 2013. Genova
    - 55 cases (31 transp laparoscopy - 24 robotic-assisted)
    - Follow-up : 31 months [12-84]
    - 2 failures

# The vascular hitch technique



# The vascular hitch technique



# The vascular hitch technique



Illustrations : S. Spitzer,  
*in* Sakoda-A *et al.* BJU Int 2011:1364-8

# Indications

- **Infants with prenatally diagnosed HN**
  - Use sensible criteria and stick to it !
  - Impaired function & significant HN
  - Normal function + large HN (threshold ?)
  - Normal function + progressing HN

# Indications - Which approach ?

- **Infants with prenatally diagnosed HN**
  - Use sensible criteria and stick to it !
  - Impaired function & significant HN
  - Normal function + large HN (threshold ?)
  - Normal function + progressing HN
  - **Posterior lumbotomy** + classic Anderson-Hynes pyeloplasty

# Indications - Which approach ?

- **Infants with prenatally diagnosed HN**
- **Infants with initially observed HN**
  - the threshold for posterior lumbotomy is high
  - how low is the threshold for a beneficial laparoscopy ?

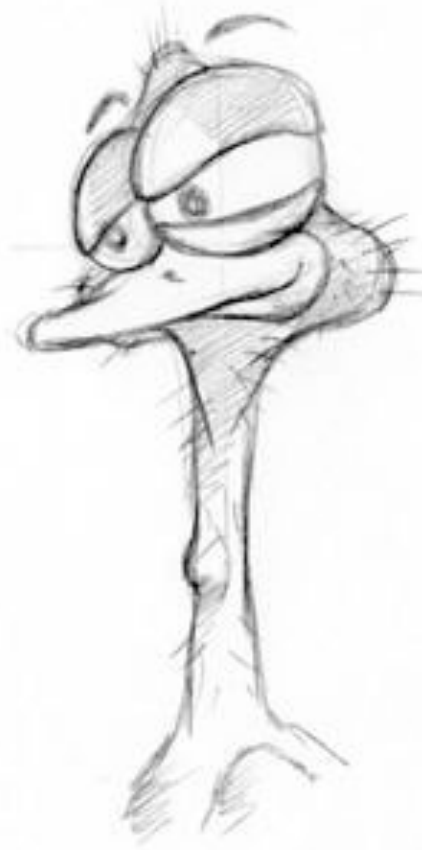


# Indications - Which approach ?

- **Infants with prenatally diagnosed HN**
- **Infants with initially observed HN**
- **Older children w/w.o prenatal diagnosis**
  - transperitoneal laparoscopy !
  - if CV + no intrinsic obstruction : Vascular hitch ?
  - in any other case : laparoscopic pteloplasty

# What did he say ?

- **Hydronephrosis does not mean Obstruction**
- **Prenatally diagnosed HN / symptomatic HN**
- **«Stable» HN results from an equilibrium**
  - between urine output & outlet resistances
  - ...that may change with time



# Megaureters



Prof. Marc-David LECLAIR  
Hôpital Mère-Enfant. NANTES. FRANCE



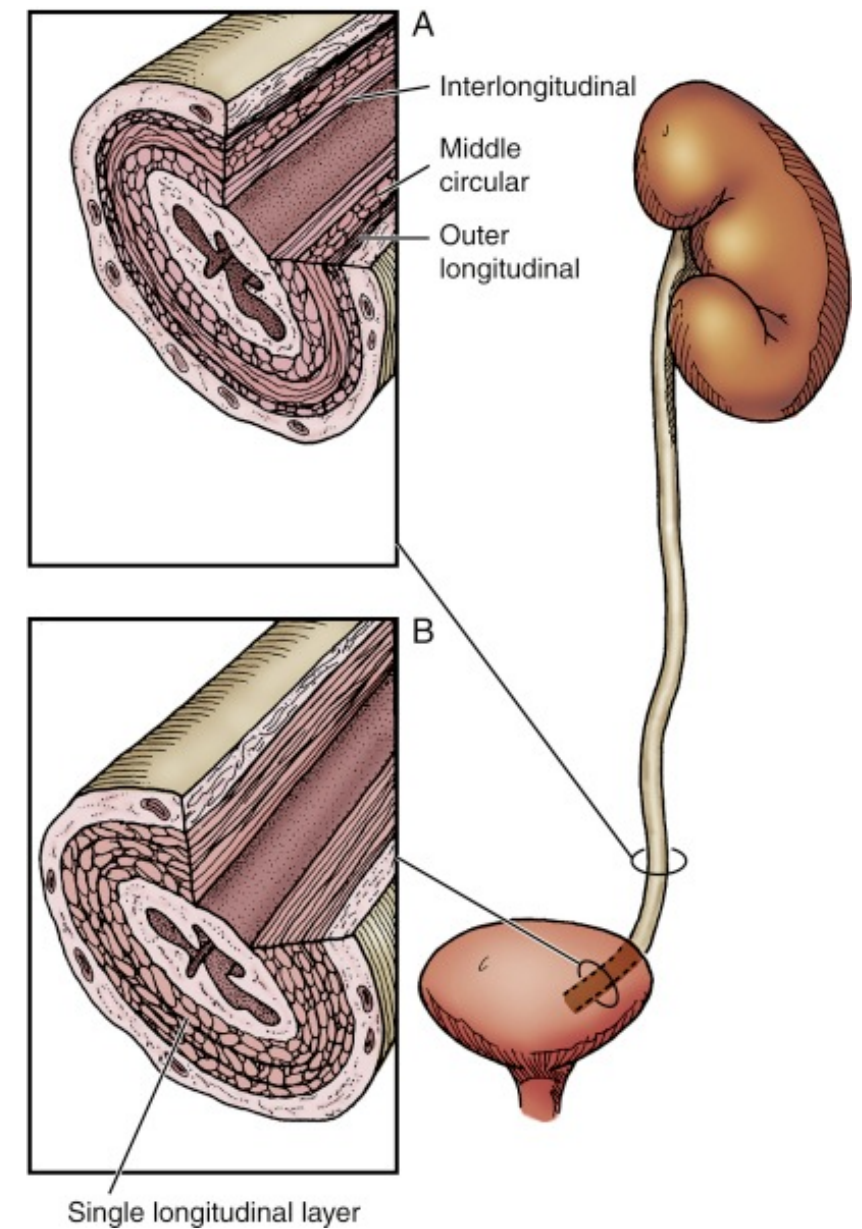
# Pathophysiology

- **Urologist's Hirschsprung disease ?**
  - but normal ganglia distribution in distal ureter
- **Abnormal muscle fibers**

Leibowitz-S. *J Clin Pathol* 1963;16:342

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# Pathophysiology

- **Urologist's Hirschsprung disease ?**

- but normal ganglia distribution in distal ureter

Leibowitz-S. *J Clin Pathol* 1963;16:342

- **Abnormal muscle fibers**

- hypertrophy circular muscle layer instead of longitudinal
- distal muscular dysplasia
- excess collagen type III deposition

MacKinnon. *J Urol* 1970;103:134

Hanna-MK. *J Urol* 1976;116:725

- **Segmental maturational dvp**

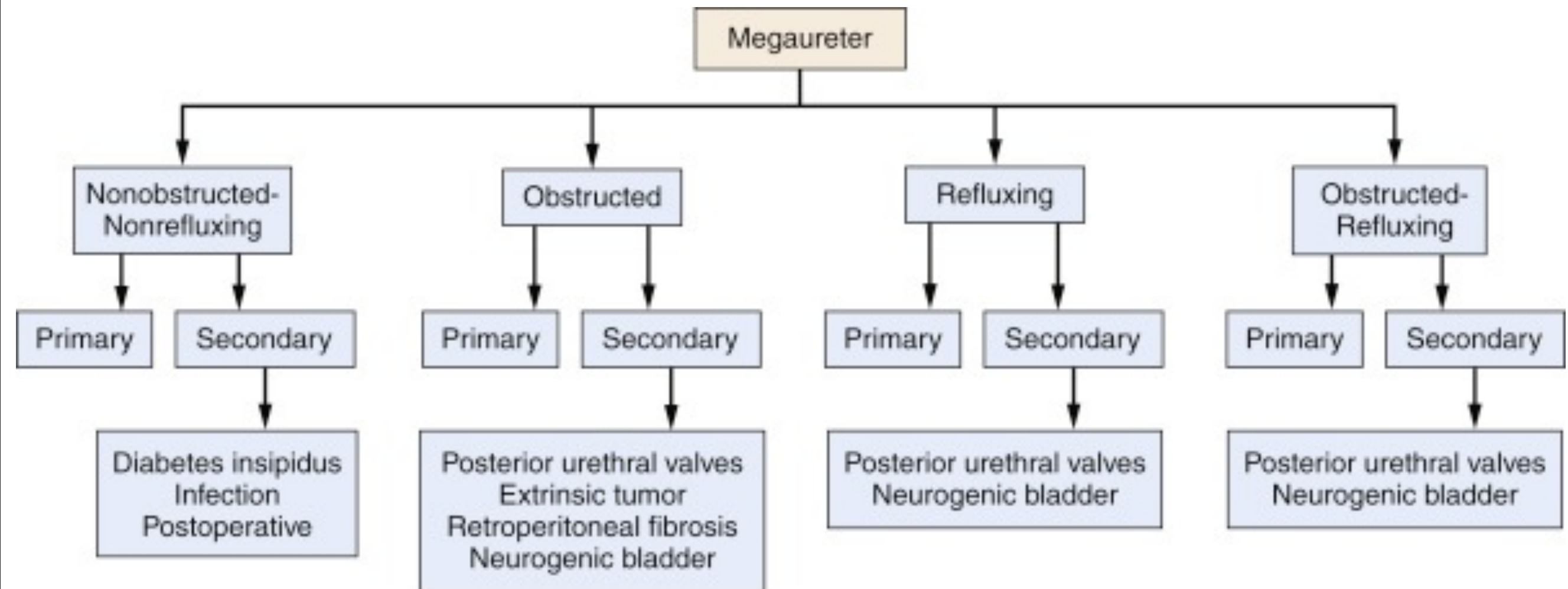
- could be explained by spont. downregulation TGF- $\beta$

Nicotina-PA. *Br J Urol* 1997;80:946



# King's Classification

King-LR. *J Urol* 1980;123:222





# Obstructive Megaureters

- **Primary**
  - adynamic ureterovesical segment
  - excessive pattern of collagen deposition
  - altered cell-to-cell junctions
  - disrupted myoelectric propagation and peristalsis
- **Secondary to bladder wall modifications**
  - neurogenic (or non-neuro-) bladder dysfunction
  - infra-vesical obstruction : PUV
  - chronic UTIs / cystitis cystica
  - others

# Refluxing Megaureters

- **Primary & Secondary refluxing MGU**
  - replacement of ureteric smooth muscle by collagen type III
  - predominantly in the distal ureter
- **Obstructive and Refluxing MGU**
  - primarily due to ureteric orifice ectopia

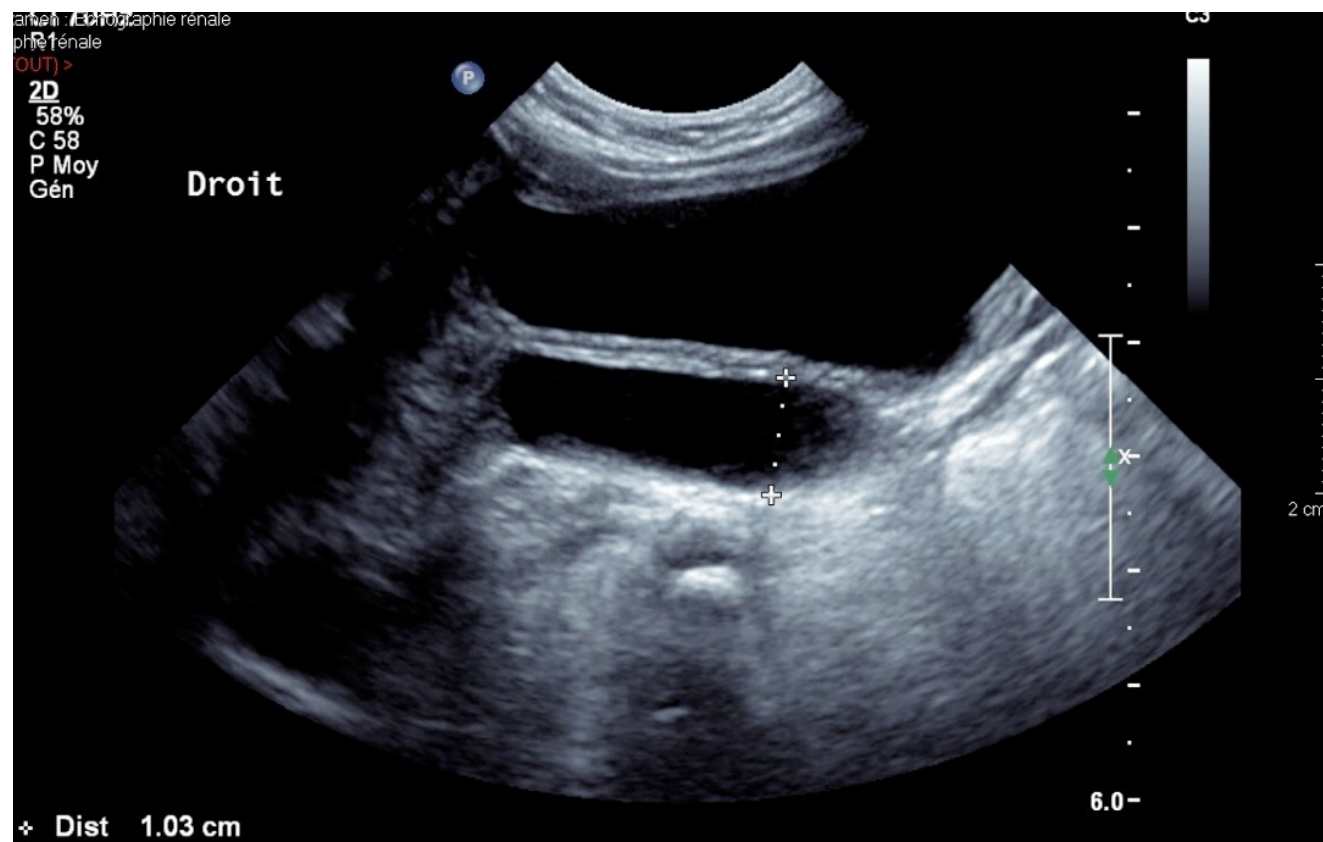
# Non-obstructive & Non refluxing

- **Primary : typical in newborns**
  - multifactorial causes
  - high prenatal urine output
  - dyscoordinated voiding
  - excess of elastin and collagen (over-expression TGF- $\beta$ )
- **Secondary**
  - altered peristalsis due to bacterial endotoxins
  - high urine output : nephropathy, diabetes insipidus, polydipsia...

# Imaging

- Ultrasound
- MAG-3 renal scan
- (functional) -MRI

# Ultrasound

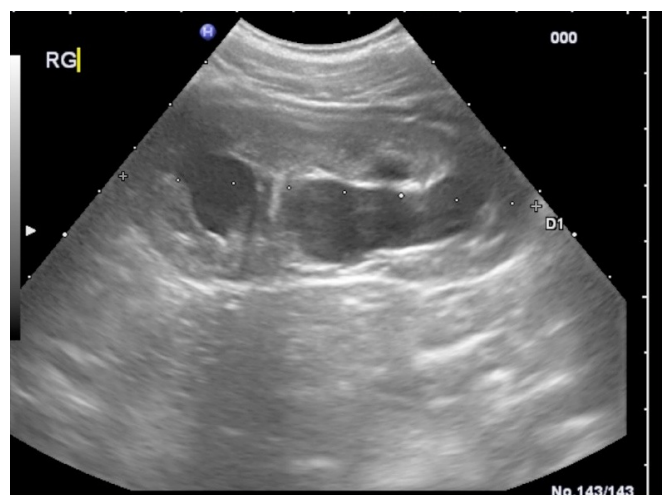
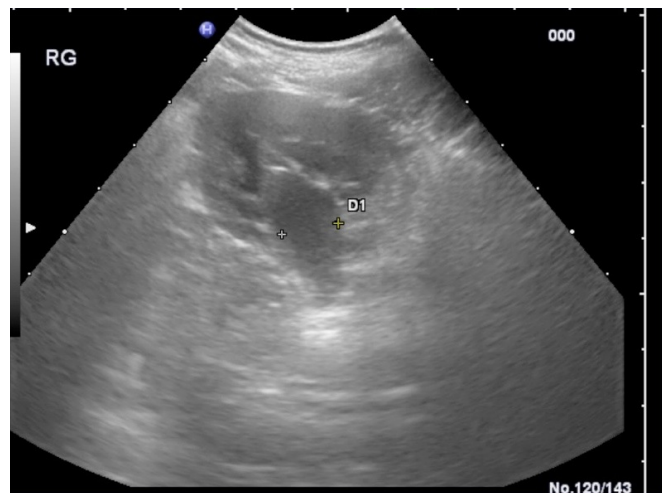


Retrovesical ureter diameter  
- Longitudinal -

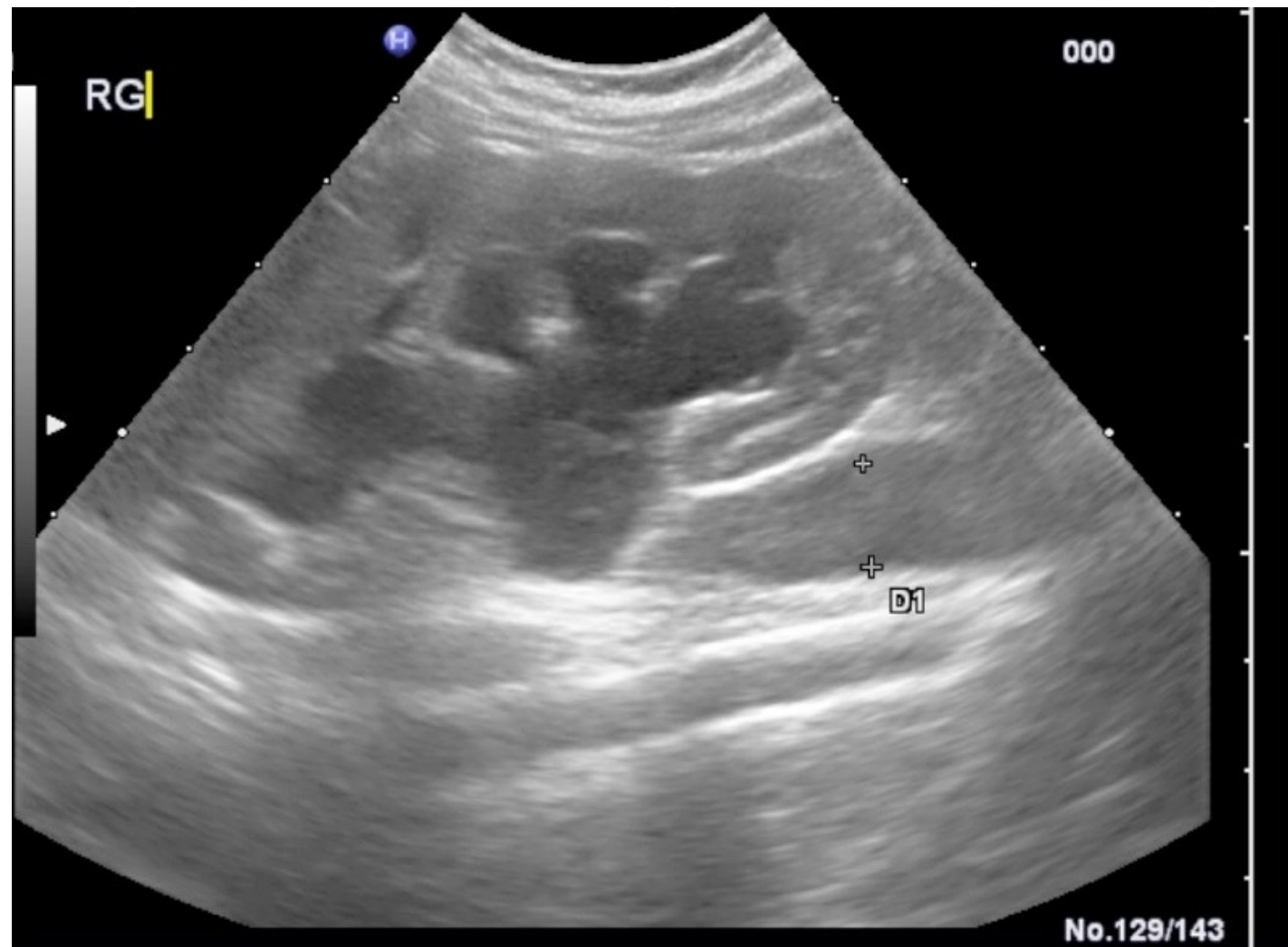


Retrovesical ureter diameter  
- Transversal -

# Ultrasound



Pelvicalyceal dilatation



Lumbar ureter diameter

# Therapeutic options

- **Conservative : watchfull waiting**
  - under ATB-prophylaxis ?
- **Diversion**
  - Ureterostomy
  - Ureteral drainage : JJ stenting
- **Endoscopic treatment**
  - pneumatic VUJ endoscopic dilatation  
± ureteric stenting ?
- **Ureteral reimplantation**
  - intra- / extra-vesical
  - with / w.o tapering



# Conservative approach

- **Conservative management of primary obstructive megaureters**

- high rates of spontaneous regression
- low rates of complications

- **observational study**

Ranawaka. *J Pediatr Surg* 2013;48:380

50 ureters, long-term follow-up : **50% resolution rate**

26 >10mm                      76%      60 months [18-204]

24 >10mm                      17%      102 months [42-210]

12% complications              3 recurrent UTIs + function deterioration

2 stones

1 hypertension

all in group B

# Diversion

- Ureterostomy has long been a standard of treatment of severe complicated MGU in infants

Lettgen-B. *Br J Urol* 1993;72:826

Gearhart-J. *Br J Urol* 1994;74:133

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- What is the place for ureteric internal stenting ?

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Gearhart-J. *Br J Urol* 1994;74:133

- What is the place for ureteric internal stenting ?

- 10 newborns / infants

Castagnetti-M *Urology* 2006;68:870

- 50% open insertion !

- 70% complications (UTIs)...

but (only) 50% open reimplant

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Lettgen-B. *Br J Urol* 1993;72:826

Gearhart-J. *Br J Urol* 1994;74:133

- What is the place for ureteric internal stenting ?

- 19 ureters in infants  
66% open insertion !  
31% complications (UTIs) ...  
56% drainage improved

Farrugia-M *J Pediatr Urol* 2011;7:198

6/19 reimplanted

# Diversion

- Ureterostomy has long been a standard of treatment of severe complicated MGU in infants

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- What is the place for ureteric internal stenting ?

- 38 ureters in infants

66% resolution

Carroll-D *Urol Ann* 2010;2:114-8

- 12 children stented prosp. compared to 15 observed  
equivalent final outcome (50% reimplantation)  
41% stent-related complications

Barbancho-DC. *Cir Pediatr* 2008;21:32

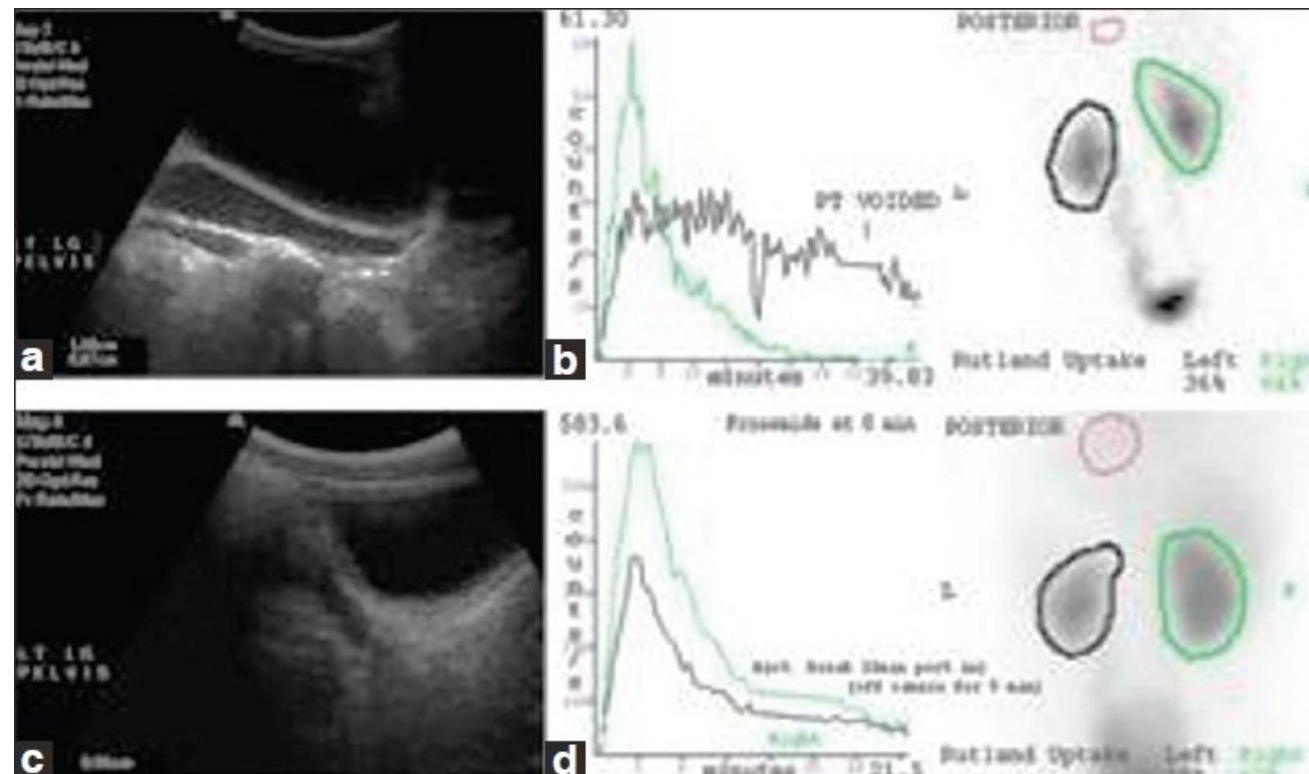
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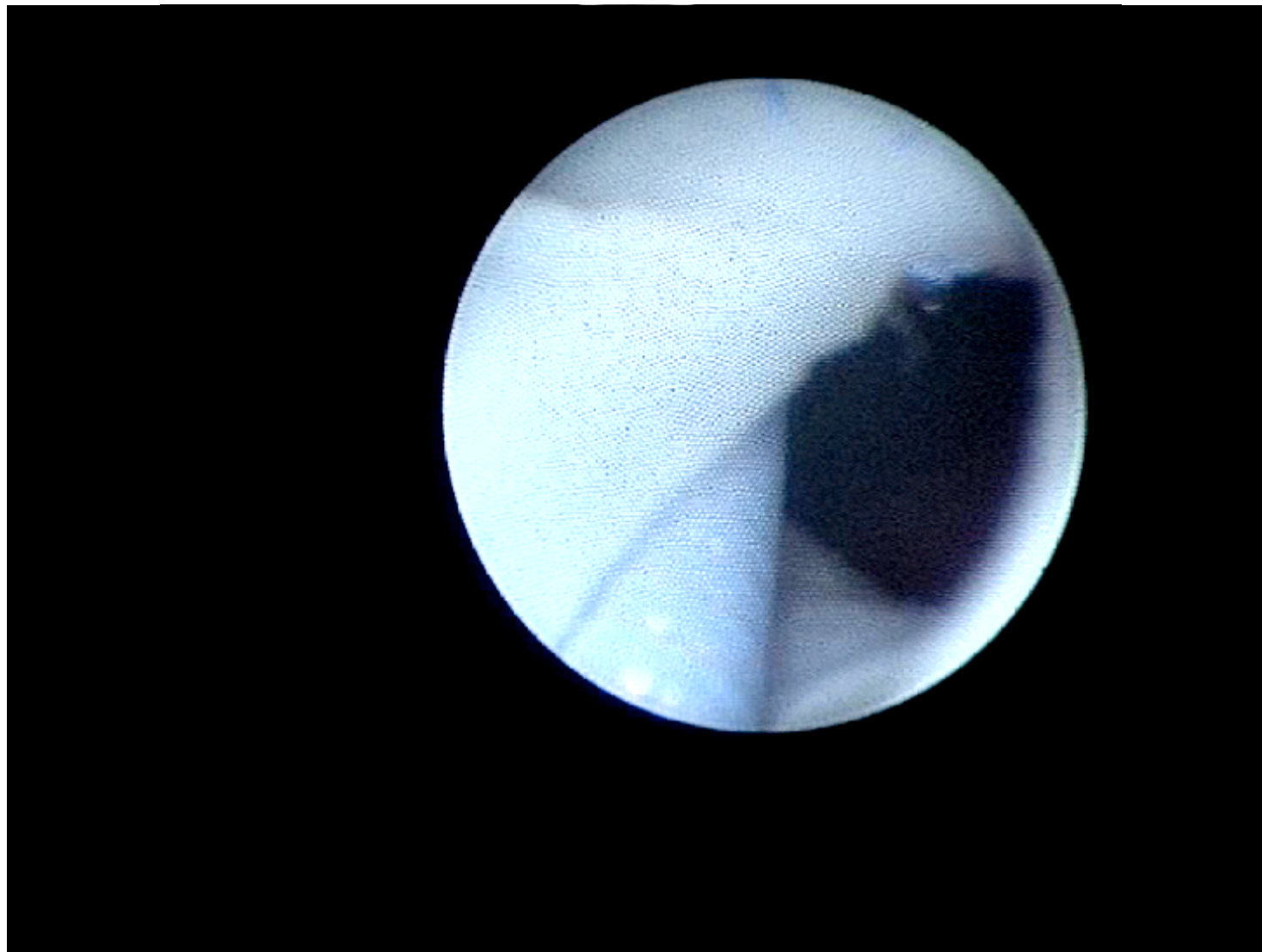
Lettgen-B. *Br J Urol* 1993;72:826

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- What is the place for ureteric internal stenting ?
  - This strategy requires severe prognosis indicators to be defined
  - At best, it can be viewed as a method to temporize a surgical treatment

# Endoscopic Treatment

- **Endoscopic pneumatic balloon dilatation**
  - 3-5mm, 2-10 min., 10-18bar,  $\pm$  JJ stenting 4-6 wks, double stenting ?



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- **Barcelona experience**

Romero-RM. ESPU 2012. Zurich

- 29 children, F-up 47 months  $\pm$ 24 (all >18 months)

- 5/29 secondary VUR

- 5 reimplantations required (VUR :2, early comp : 2, persistent obstruction :1)

- **Feasible in infants**

Torino-G. *J Endourol* 2012;26:325

- 5 infants - 3F catheter (4mm), 4.7F JJ 6-8 wks)

- all improved on US

- no secondary VUR

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- **Personnal series**

Clermidi-P. *unpublished data*

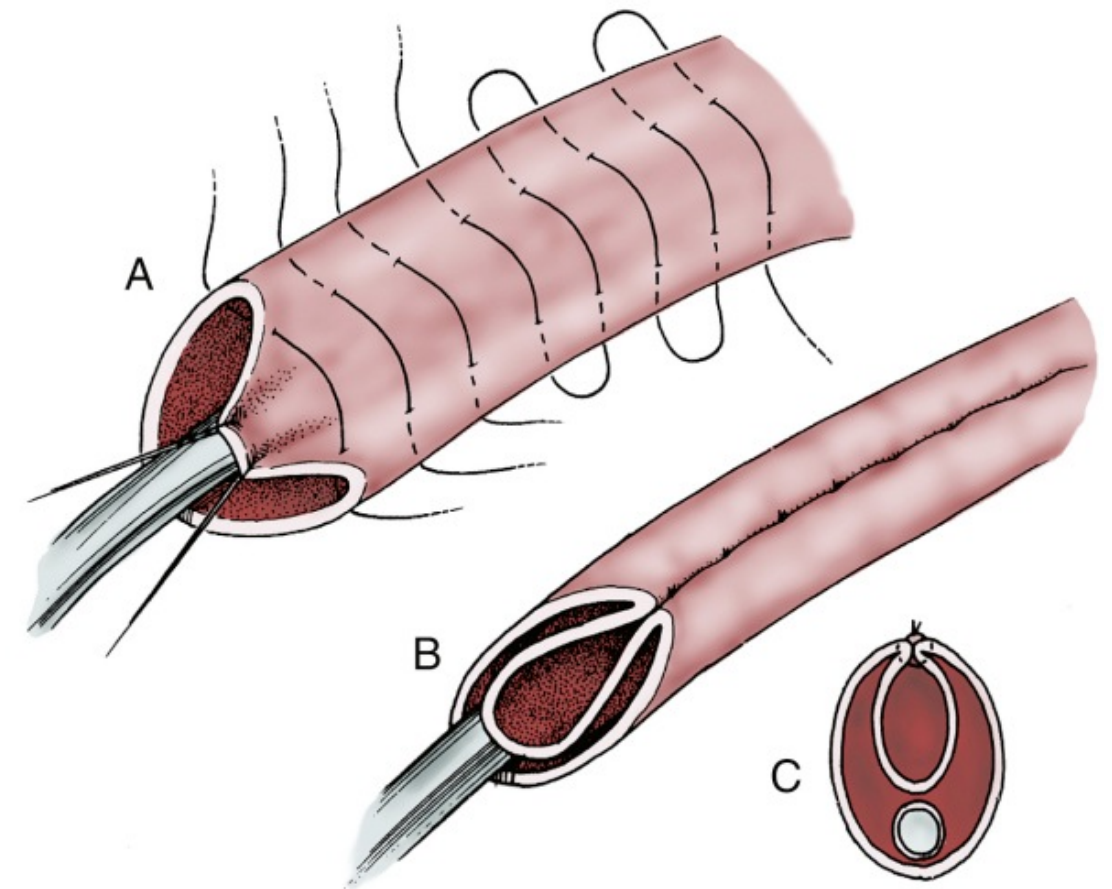
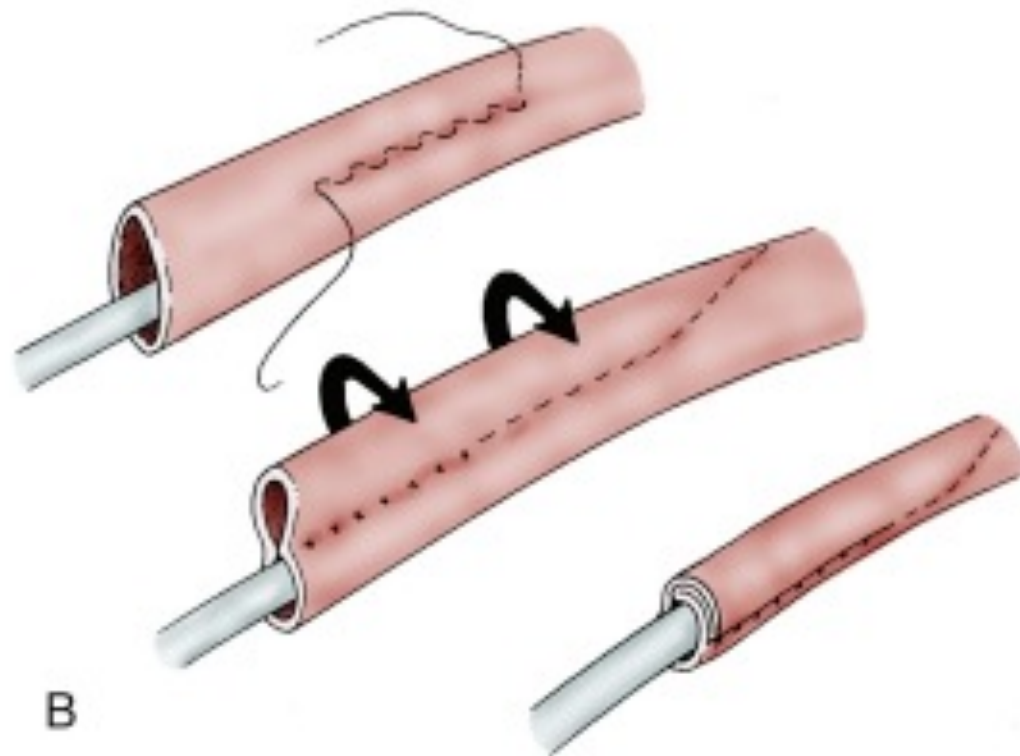
- 14 primary obstructive MGU

- 3/14 failures of insertion - high rate of stent related complications

- 6/9 improved at >12 months

# Surgical reimplantation

- **Intra-vesical reimplantation : INFRA-hiatal**
  - cross-trigonal Cohen reimplant
  - often requires ureter tapering or plication



# Surgical reimplantation

- **Supra-hiatal reimplant**

- Leadbetter-Politano + ureteral tapering

- **Psoas-hitch reimplant +++**

- 93 patients primary refluxing or obstructive MGU

- ureteral tapering 17/93**

- 98% improved hydro-ureteronephrosis

- 16% postop VUR, 7% breakthrough UTIs

Rod-J. *unpublished data*

# Indications

- **Less and less interventional**
- **Symptomatic MGU**
  - decreasing function
  - stones ?
  - urinary sepsis, breakthrough UTIs ?
  - Remember high rates of spontaneous resolution / low complication rates
- **Symptomatic infants : buy time**
  - circumcision, JJ stenting, dilatation ?
  - ureterostomy in (very) severe situations



# So What ?

- Few obstructive megaureters require surgical intervention
- Potential spontaneous resolution
- Endoscopic management successes may only reflect a (spontaneous) favourable outcome
- The place for endoscopic dilatation as a first-line treatment remains to be defined

