

Heart Size - CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease) - History - Disease

Chronic Kidney Disease - When Scientists Disagree

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The blind men and the elephant (small relief in Northeast Thailand)

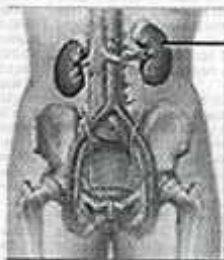
The deadly disease known as Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Aetiology (CKDu), aka Chronic Renal Failure (CRF), is progressively ravaging many poor rural communities in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. It is now being detected in other areas of the Dry Zone such as the Eastern and Uva Provinces as well. It has resulted in the deaths of a large number of people, variously estimated at between 20 and 22 thousand, over the last 20 years. Some 4,000 persons are currently said to be undergoing treatment for this disease and, according to the Minister of Health, the Government is spending over Rs. 4,000 million annually on treating CKDu patients. This insidious disease which, according to the final WHO report, cannot be ascribed to diabetes mellitus, hypertension, primary glomerular nephritis or other known etiologies, usually progresses without outward symptoms until it reaches an advanced - and often terminal - stage.

What do scientists say about the causes of CKDu?

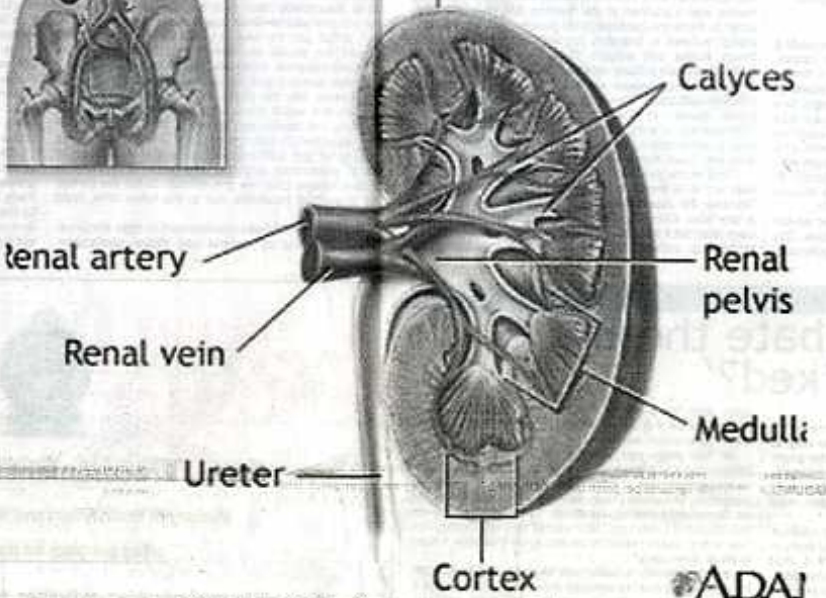
Many investigations have been launched and studies carried out to identify the causes of this disease, but no definitive answers have yet been found, although theories abound. The possible causes to which CKDu has been attributed by scientists include, among others:

• hardness and/or high content of fluorides in drinking water;

• use of cheap aluminium cookware which is easily solubilised by the fluoride in water;



Kidney



Renal artery

Renal vein

Ureter

Cortex

Calyces

Renal pelvis

Medulla

nirable Diseases, World Health Organization, Geneva
10:00-10:15
Title
Technical Program - For Registered Participants only
Session I - Epidemiology of CKDu
Co-Chairs: Prof. Rizvi Sheriff & Dr. Kingsley de Alwis

10:15-10:35
Geographical Distribution & Epidemiology of CKDu in Sri Lanka
Prof. A.M.S. Dharmika Mendis
Dissanayake, Dept. of Pathology Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya
10:35-10:55
Medical Features of CKDu
Dr. Tilak Abeysekera, Consultant Nephrologist and Head, Dept. of Nephrology & Transplantation - Teaching Hospital, Kandy
10:55-11:15
Discussion

Session II - Economic, Social & Environmental Aspects
Chair: Prof. A.Vidya Indrasirane & Dr. Leema Gunaratne
11:15-11:35
Financial and Economic costs of CKDu
Dr. P.G. Mahipala
Director General of Health Services
11:35-12:00
Social and Economic Impact of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in Sri Lanka
Prof. K. Tudor Silva, Senior Professor of Sociology, University of Peradeniya
12:00-12:15
Discussion

12:15-13:30
LUNCII
Session III - Theories & Silver Bullets
Co-Chairs: Prof. Rizvi Sheriff & Prof. J. N. O. Fernando
13:30-14:00
Water quality in the Dry Zone in relation to the occurrence of CKDu
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake, Director, Institute of Pandimalmal Studies, Kandy
14:00-14:25
Fluoride in the water and its possible health impacts
Prof. Oliver Deperuma, Sr. Prof. of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya
14:25-14:50
Heavy metals, particularly arsenic (As) and cadmium (Cd) in the water and/or food chain

ADAJ

Expected Outcomes

