Renal Colic CT KUB

Access to CT KUB for General Practice (Monday-Friday only)

A CT KUB (computed tomography, kidneys, ureters and bladder) is the investigation of choice for acute renal colic.

This is a study without contrast, with relatively low radiation dose, and with a very high sensitivity for the detection of renal and ureteric stones.

Direct access for CT KUB should be used for acute renal colic, and not for the routine assessment of known renal calculi or other conditions, for example in UTI, or for investigation of non-specific abdominal pain.

The CT KUB investigation should be used for patients with classic loin to groin pain, typically ‘rolling on the floor’ pain and dipstick positive haematuria.

Renal and ureteric calculi without haematuria is unusual, and a CT KUB should in general not be undertaken.

If there is strong clinical suspicion of renal colic in the absence of a positive dipstick, CT KUB can still be undertaken.

It is assumed that adequate analgesia will have been prescribed until the scan has been undertaken.

Suggested Protocol

- Patient attends GP Practice, with classic features of acute renal colic.
- An electronic referral is forwarded to the Acute Demand Admin Team using the BPAC Acute Demand Radiology referral form.
Suggested Protocol continued

- The Acute Demand Admin Team will arrange a **same day appointment** once the referral is received. A CT KUB (Non-Contrast) procedure will require a 15min appointment at radiology.
- The patient will be contacted within 10-15mins of the referral being sent. It is helpful if a current mobile phone number is supplied to contact the patient or the patient kept at the GP Practice until contacted with the appointment a time.
- The CT will be performed at **Bay Radiology, Grace Hospital, Cheyne Road, Oropi**. The patient will require transport.
- If a same day appointment is not possible the GP / NP will be phoned and consulted about a next day appointment being acceptable. If presenting on a Friday and a CT appointment is not available (due to scanner capacity or contact is late on a Friday afternoon) a scan will be arranged for the following Monday (excluding Public Holidays). If the GP / NP feels a more urgent assessment needs to be made, the patient will need to be referred either to ED or the acute urology team.
- Acute Demand Admin Team will fax the referral information to Bay Radiology once appointment arrangements have been confirmed with the patient.
- If the CT scan is negative for a renal stone but shows other, **non-acute** pathology, further referral will need to be made by the GP / NP via the usual channels.
- If the CT scan is negative for a renal stone but shows other, **acute** pathology (e.g. leaking AAA), the patient will need to be referred to ED or the relevant on-duty team at Tauranga hospital.
- If a severe hydronephrosis secondary to ureteric obstruction is found at the examination, the patient will be sent to ED.
- The patient will remain at Bay Radiology (Grace Hospital) until the GP / NP has been phoned the result.
- The patient will then be informed after the phoned report whether it is safe to leave, or advised to return for a follow-up consult at the GP practice.

**Radiology protocol if ‘Unable to Contact GP / NP’**

- If Radiology is unable to contact the GP Practice to speak with the GP / NP and the patient is uncomfortable with pain, the patient will be sent directly to ED.
- If Radiology is unable to contact the GP Practice to speak with the GP / NP and the patient is comfortable, the patient will be advised to seek medical attention if their condition worsens.

**Acute Demand Admin Team protocol if ‘Unable to Contact the Patient’**

It is assumed the GP Practice will ensure the patient is available by phone or kept at the GP Practice to confirm the appointment.

- If the patient is unable to be reached by phone to confirm the appointment, the GP Practice will be contacted with the information.
Acute Demand Service

- If the patient has left the GP Practice and is unable to be contacted at home within a reasonable time-frame, the appointment will be cancelled at Bay Radiology. The Acute Demand referral will become void.