COMMENTARY

Voiding cystourethrogram in multicystic dysplastic kidney: the pendulum has swung

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While it is unclear to what extent urinary tract infection and renal damage were prevented by initiating prophylactic antibiotics in this asymptomatic population, the data argue against performing screening VCUG in MCDK patients. Other institutions are beginning to generate similar findings. Sparing unnecessary screening VCUGs may serve to limit the radiation, costs, morbidity and discomfort associated with the study. However, these children have only one functioning kidney to serve them and damage to this solitary kidney has devastating consequences. Thus, in the absence of performing a screening VCUG, the threshold for further evaluation should be low to identify the solitary kidney at risk and its management adjusted accordingly.

References