A 35-year-old man presented at our hospital with weight loss and diarrhea. Computed tomography (CT) enteroclysis was carried out for evaluation of the small bowel to investigate the diarrhea. The scan revealed bilateral renal cysts with complex renal masses, as well as multiple pancreatic cysts and a mass in the genu (Fig. 1). The patient was suspected as having von Hippel–Lindau (VHL) disease, which was confirmed after a CT brain revealed a cerebellar hemangioblastoma.

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) evaluation of the pancreas showed multiple pancreatic cysts between the head and the tail (Fig. 2) with an 18 × 12 mm, well-defined hyper-echoic mass in the genu. Both kidneys were studded with cysts. In addition, a hyper-echoic mass (12 × 15 mm) was seen in the right kidney. We carried out EUS-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) of the renal mass, followed by the right renal mass (Fig. 3; Video 1).

However, shortly afterward, the patient passed blood-stained urine, and hematuria was confirmed with a dipstick. As it was mild, the patient was managed conservatively, and the hematuria resolved several hours later. The renal aspirate revealed a renal cell carcinoma (RCC), while the pancreatic aspirate revealed a neuroendocrine tumor. The patient was offered surgery, but he declined.

VHL disease is an autosomal dominant condition characterized by tumors involving multiple organs [1]. We report the first case of EUS-guided FNA of a renal mass in VHL disease resulting in hematuria. This complication has never been documented before, and there are only four reports of uncomplicated EUS-guided FNA of renal masses [2–5]. The risks associated with percutaneous biopsy of renal lesions include hematomy, hematuria, pneumothorax, and needle tract seeding. Endoscopists should be aware of these complications because a renal mass may be accessible only by traversing through the parenchyma. Our case also illustrates the usefulness of EUS in the evaluation of both pancreas and kidneys in VHL disease.

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CPL_1AL_2AF

Competing interests: None

S. Lakhtakia, E. Wee, R. Gupta, S. Anuradha, R. Kalpala, A. Monga, S. Arjunan, D. N. Reddy
Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Hyderabad, India

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Endoscopy 2012; 44: E133
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author
S. Lakhtakia
Asian Institute of Gastroenterology
6-3-661 Somajiguda
Hyderabad – 500 082
India
Fax: +91-40-23324255
sandeep@lakhtakia.com

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) of a renal mass carried out from the duodenum: a hyperchoeic mass in the right kidney (arrowheads) was punctured with a 22-G needle. Several smaller renal cysts are also present (arrow).

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) of a middle-aged patient with weight loss and diarrhea: multiple cysts (arrowheads) are present in the pancreas, extending from the genu to the distal body. Note also the bilateral renal masses (arrows).

Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine needle aspiration of a renal tumor in von Hippel–Lindau disease.