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Clinical epidemiology of urolithiasis in tropical areas (Yemeni style)

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Tropical is pertaining to the regions of the earth bounded by the parallels of latitude 23 27' north and south of the equator.

Urolithiasis is an entity, which has high morbidity and socio-economical impact, and low mortality and it is a common clinical disorder. Its frequency has risen with the development of humanity and varies with the country, geographic area, etc.

Its world prevalence is estimated between 1 to 5%, in developed countries 2-13% and in developing countries 0.5-1%

The overall probability of forming stones differs in various parts of the world: 1-5% in Asia, 5-9% in Europe, 13% in North America, 20% in Yemen.

Urolithiasis could have prevalence around 3% as has been found in Yemen.

The stone problem in the tropics (e.g. Yemen) is compounded by low urine volumes resulting in some areas from poor drinking water, which causes chronic diarrhoea, and in others from the hot climate and fluid losses through the skin.

A slightly higher rate of renal stone disease is reported in males than in females, about three males are afflicted for every female.

The majority or may be all tropical countries are developing countries. When the social and economical conditions of any of these improve it have been confirmed that the frequency of kidney stone increase. Thus tropical areas influence the frequency and the impact of the urinary calculi but it represents an aspect of the environmental factors superimposed on the intrinsic factors.

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