Kidney diseases in the major work of Giovanni Battista Morgagni

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The distinguished anatomist and physician Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682–1771) published his major work, *De sedibus et causis morborum per anatomiam indagatis* (The seats and causes of diseases investigated by anatomy), in 1761, at the age of 79. This work, which was printed in Venice by the famous publishing house Remondini, is considered to be the foundation of modern pathology [1,2]. It describes the correlation between the symptoms and the underlying pathology, as resulting from thorough clinical records and exhaustive naked-eye observations at necropsy. Morgagni studied about 700 cases, most of which had been collected and dissected by himself, and which covered all the fields of pathology.

Morgagni also described a wide spectrum of abnormalities of the kidneys. These included: solitary kidneys, changes of size and shape, asymmetry between one kidney and the other, thickening of the renal capsules, irregularities of the renal surface, hardening and softening, overturning of the internal structure, suppuration, hydronephrosis, nephrolithiasis, and tumours.

It is possible that a review of the work of Morgagni from a nephrological point of view may reveal other...
interesting findings in addition to those reported recently [3].

References

