

## 20 pc kids suffer from renal failure

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

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About 20 per cent of children suffer from renal failure and the most common renal disease among children is nephritic syndrome.

This was stated by Dr V.J.S. Viridi, who recently returned after completing his paediatric nephrology fellowship at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, while talking to mediapersons here today.

He said that in such cases the body protein started leaking out through the kidney causing swelling of the body. Such patients were treated with steroids but there was the possibility that 40 per cent of them might become steroid resistant and needed more immuno-suppression in the form of anti-cancer drugs. There were chances that such children might develop kidney failure also. He said the main cause of the disease was dehydration which could damage kidneys.

When asked what were the symptoms in children which showed that they were suffering

from some sort of renal disease, he said passage of blood in urine, swelling in the body, urine infection, bed-wetting, etc.

Dr Viridi said if a child developed renal failure, dialysis had to be done till the time a kidney transplant was done. But haemodialysis in children was sometimes difficult due to small calibre of the blood vessels. In such cases, peritoneal dialysis was done where peritoneal fluid was put into the peritoneal cavity repeatedly.

He said it was difficult to regrow kidney. Renal transplant had not been very successful in the case of children and moreover everyone could not afford the treatment.

Dr Viridi, who has worked as a paediatric consultant at the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, Chandigarh, before going for fellowship, said there were inadequate facilities at government hospitals to deal with acute cases of renal failure in the case of children. He said that a renal metabolic clinic was being run under his supervision at the GMCH.