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UROGENITAL SYSTEM

The urogenital system (*apparatus urogenitalis*) includes the urinary organs, as well as male (**Fig. 1**) and female (**Fig. 2**) reproductive organs sharing a common development and showing close anatomical and functional interrelationships.

URINARY ORGANS

The urinary organs (*organa urinaria*) produce urine (kidneys), transport urine from the kidneys (renal calyces, renal pelvis, ureters), and also serve to store urine in the urinary bladder and excrete urine from the body through the urethra.

KIDNEY

The kidney (ren, from Greek *nephros*) is a paired, bean-shaped organ weighing from 120 to 200 g. The kidney has *an anterior surface* (*facies anterior*) and *a posterior surface* (*facies posterior*), *an upper end*, or *pole* (*extremitas superior*), and *a lower end*, or *pole* (*extremitas inferior*), as well as a convex *lateral border* (*margo lateralis*) and a concave *medial border* (*margo medialis*). At the medial border there is a depression: *renal hilum* (*hilum renalis*), into which the renal artery and nerves enter, the ureter, renal vein, lymphatic vessels emerge, forming the renal pedicle (**Fig. 3**). Deep in the renal hilum there is a depression that extends into the substance of the kidney, the *renal sinus* (*sinus renalis*). In the renal sinus there are small and large renal calyces, the renal pelvis, blood and lymph vessels, nerve fibers and adipose tissue.

The right and left kidney are located on either side of the vertebral column, on the posterior abdominal wall, retroperitoneally. The left kidney is located somewhat higher than the right. The upper end of the left kidney is located at the level of the middle of T11, and the upper end of the right kidney corresponds to the lower edge of this vertebra. The twelfth rib crosses the posterior surface of the left kidney in the middle of its length, and the right does so at the border of its upper and middle third. With its layers the posterior surface of the kidney is adjacent to the diaphragm, the quadratus lumborum muscle, the transversus abdominis muscle, and the psoas major muscle (renal bed).

The suprarenal gland is located at the superior pole of each kidney (**Fig. 4**). The anterior surfaces of the right and left kidney are located behind the parietal peritoneum (in the retroperitoneal space) and thus are in contact with certain internal organs. The superior part of the anterior surface of the right kidney is adjacent to the liver, and the inferior third is adjacent to the right colic flexure; the descending part of the duodenum is adjacent to the medial border of the right kidney. The anterior

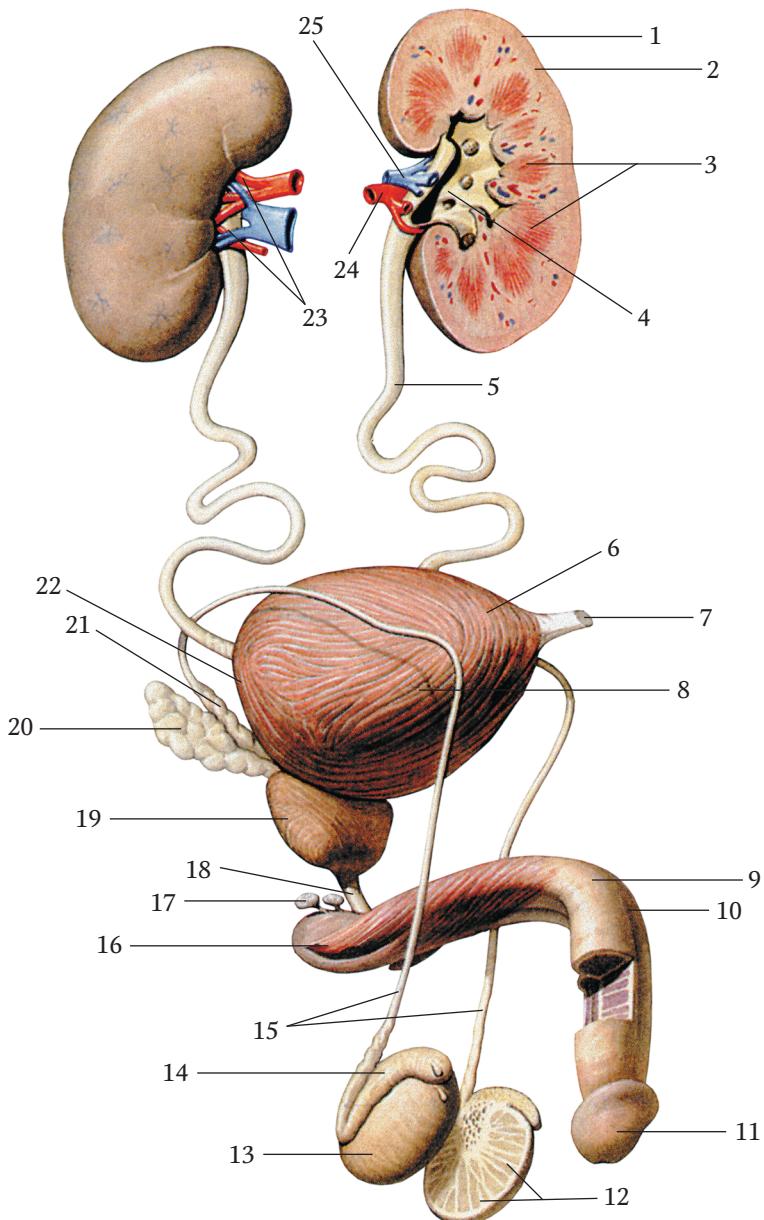


Fig. 1. Male urogenital tract (anterior and right lateral views): 1 – kidney; 2 – renal cortex; 3 – renal pyramids; 4 – renal pelvis; 5 – ureter; 6 – apex of urinary bladder; 7 – median umbilical ligament; 8 – body of urinary bladder; 9 – body of penis; 10 – dorsum of penis; 11 – glans of penis; 12 – lobule of testis; 13 – testis; 14 – epididymis; 15 – ductus deferens; 16 – root of penis; 17 – bulbourethral gland; 18 – membranous part of urethra; 19 – prostate; 20 – seminal vesicle; 21 – ampulla of ductus deferens; 22 – fundus of urinary bladder; 23 – renal hilum; 24 – renal artery; 25 – renal vein

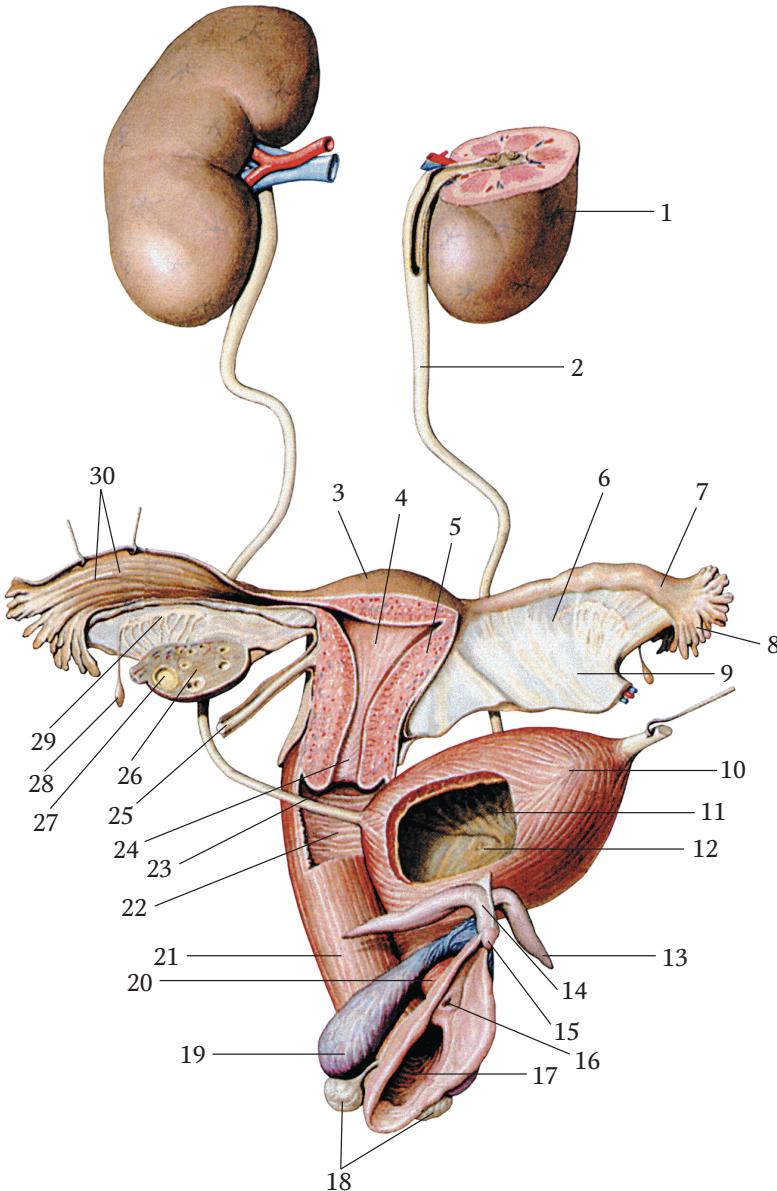


Fig. 2. Female urogenital tract (anterior and right lateral views): 1 – kidney; 2 – ureter; 3 – fundus of uterus; 4 – uterine cavity; 5 – body of uterus; 6 – mesentery of uterine tube; 7 – ampulla of uterine tube; 8 – fimbriae of uterine tube; 9 – mesentery of uterus (broad ligament of uterus); 10 – urinary bladder; 11 – mucous membrane of urinary bladder; 12 – ureteric orifice; 13 – crus of clitoris; 14 – body of clitoris; 15 – glans of clitoris; 16 – external urethral orifice; 17 – vaginal orifice; 18 – greater vestibular gland (Bartolin's gland); 19 – bulbs of vestibule; 20 – female urethra; 21 – vagina; 22 – vaginal rugae; 23 – external orifice of uterus; 24 – cervical canal; 25 – round ligament of uterus; 26 – ovary; 27 – ovarian follicle; 28 – vesicular appendage; 29 – oophoron; 30 – tubal folds

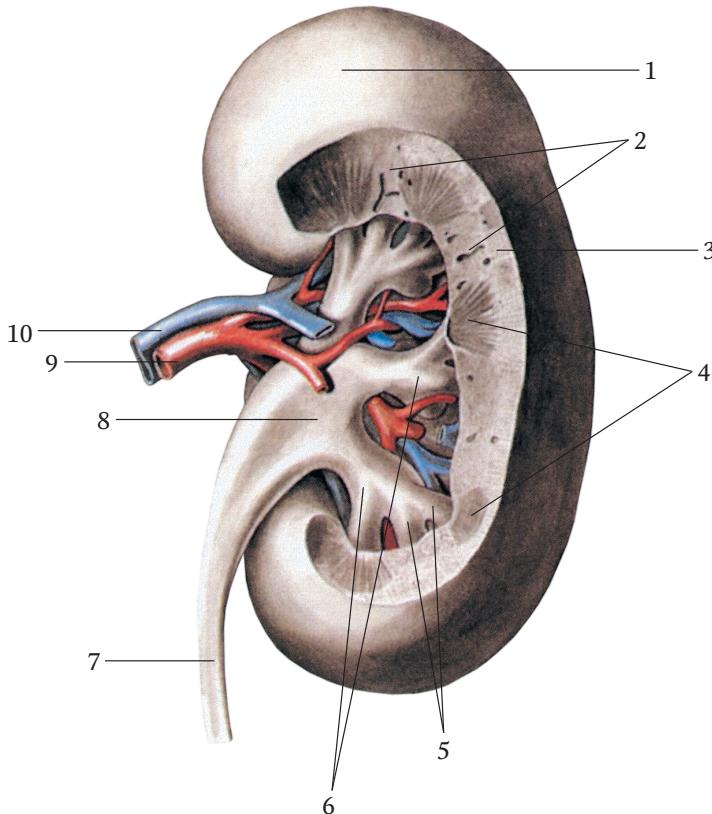


Fig. 3. Right kidney (posterior view; frontal section): 1 – posterior surface of kidney; 2 – renal columns; 3 – renal cortex; 4 – renal medulla (pyramids); 5 – minor renal calyces; 6 – major renal calyces; 7 – ureter; 8 – renal pelvis; 9 – renal artery; 10 – renal vein

surface of the left kidney in the upper third is in contact with the stomach, with the pancreas in the middle, and with loops of the jejunum in the lower third. The lateral border of the left kidney is adjacent to the spleen and left colic flexure.

The kidney has several layers. Adjacent to the renal tissue is the *fibrous capsule* (*capsula fibrosa*), outside of which is a thick *adipose capsule* (*capsula adiposa*), better expressed on the posterior side of the kidney. Outside the adipose capsule of the kidney, there is the *renal fascia* (*fascia renalis*), consisting of anterior and posterior leaflet. The *anterior leaflet* of the renal fascia encloses the right and left kidney, renal vessels, the abdominal part of the aorta, and the inferior vena cava anteriorly.

Superiorly, above the suprarenal glands and laterally to the kidneys, the anterior leaflet fuses with the posterior leaflet. The *posterior leaflet* of the renal fascia is attached to the spine medially to the kidneys on the left and right. The inferior borders of the anterior and posterior leaflet of the renal fascia are not connected to each other. Anterior to the anterior leaflet is the parietal peritoneum.

The kidney consists of two layers. Cortex: The cortex is the outer layer of the kidney, and it measures 0.4 to 0.7 cm in thickness. It contains renal corpuscles, proximal convoluted tubules, and distal convoluted tubules. The cortex has a lighter and darker

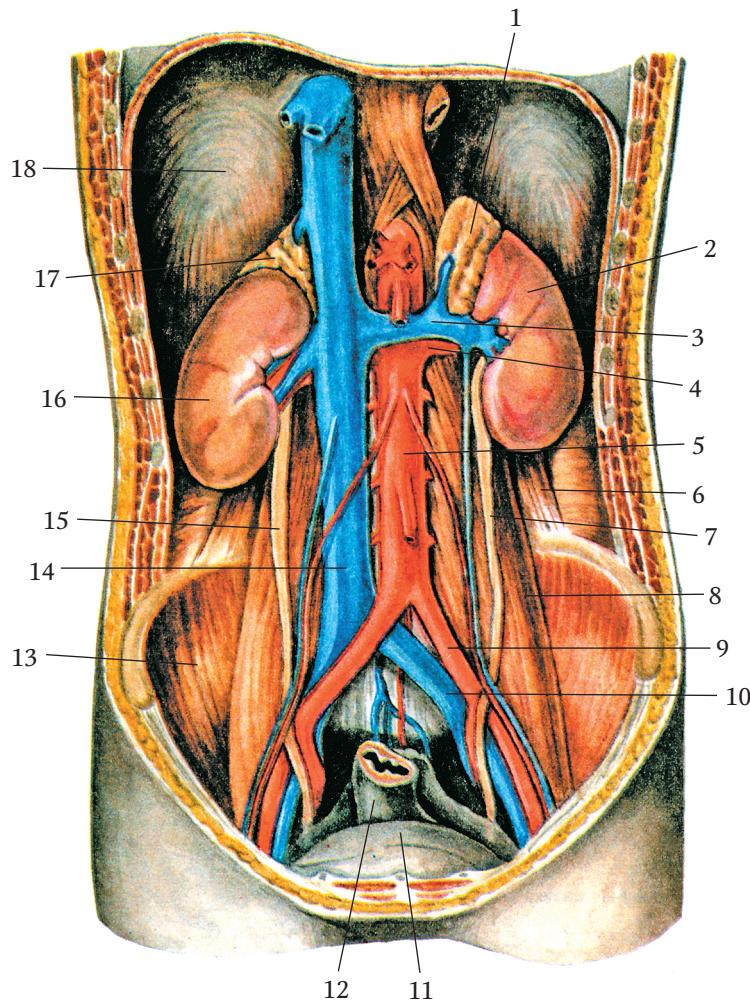


Fig. 4. Position of the right and left kidneys on the posterior abdominal wall (anterior view): 1 — left suprarenal gland; 2 — left kidney; 3 — left renal vein; 4 — left renal artery; 5 — abdominal part of aorta; 6 — quadratus lumborum muscle; 7 — left ureter; 8 — psoas major muscle; 9 — left common iliac artery; 10 — left common iliac vein; 11 — urinary bladder; 12 — rectum; 13 — right iliacus muscle; 14 — inferior vena cava; 15 — right ureter; 16 — right kidney; 17 — right suprarenal gland; 18 — diaphragm

appearance due to the arrangement of renal tubules. The lighter areas, called medullary rays, extend from the medulla into the cortex. The darker areas are called cortical labyrinth and contain renal corpuscles and convoluted tubules. Medulla: The medulla is the inner layer of the kidney, and it measures 2 to 2.5 cm in thickness. It contains renal pyramids, which are cone-shaped structures that point towards the renal hilum. The medulla also contains loops of Henle, collecting ducts, and papillary ducts (*nephrons*). The renal cortex (cortex renalis) consists of alternating lighter and darker areas. The lighter areas extend from the renal medulla into the cortex as rays and are