**STUDY OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO QUALITY OF WATER IN MARATHWADA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)**

Introduction-

This is an observational study undertaken in two phases after permission from ethical committee. Patients more than age 18 years from two major general hospitals in Marathwada region of Maharashtra were screened for CKDu in first phase. Data was collected with reference to age, sex, occupation, area of residence, exposure to heat, source of water, use of alternative medicine, use of insecticides and pesticides ,addiction and literacy,.

In second phase the water samples from areas most affected were analyzed for pH, hardness, TDS, calcium, magnesium, sulphate, chloride and fluoride. Patients above the age of 18 years of age and both sexes were included in the study.

Water samples from ground water, dug well, tube well, municipal supply, tankers and river were collected from the affected areas.

Discussion-Incidence of CKDu was 18.09% and 14.78% in two centers. Majority cases belonged to Aurangabad district. Male to female ratio was 3:1 .Most patients belonged to active age group (66 %) and came from rural area. The risk factors observed were exposure to heat, insecticides pesticides, alternate medicines, alcohol addiction and illiteracy. Total 327 water samples from various sources collected in various regions in Aurangabad district showed higher TDS and high Calcium, Magnesium & Iron levels than permissible levels.

Conclusion- There is high incidence of CKDu in rural region in Aurangabad district of Marathwada. The disease affects predominantly males in young age. Hard water exposure, high environmental temperature, exposure to agrochemicals, alternate medicines, alcohol addiction and illiteracy are associated with CKDu.

Word Count-248