
Introduction

The literature is strewn with the flotsam and jetsam of diatribes regarding the cause and effects of urolithiasis. But in the final accounting of disease, human beings contract and suffer individually. An investigator deals with statistics, and patient lists generate clinical series. Often overlooked is the individual. It is almost impossible to write a scientific paper any longer about an individual without crossing the threshold of impropriety or now federal legislation concerning HIPA violation (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104–191). Yet the individual is the unique endpoint of all discussions of disease, the final common denominator between treatment and outcome. So it behooves those whose mission remains to become knowledgeable about stone disease to have at least passing knowledge of a catalogue of the only patients one can discuss outside of these realms of impropriety and Federal jurisdiction, those suffering that are already famous. Our society has already bypassed the acceptable boundaries of this indiscretion for a more tabloid notoriety. This represents an attempt at scholarly, chronologic listing of famous urolithiasis sufferers. Since I've first written this portion and presented it to a group of urologists, there has been subsequent substantial interest in this on the Internet. I have incorporated this author's endeavors to make it more complete, though, no doubt, there are others that are missing [1, 2].

The Legacy of the Famous Stone Patient

The Internet and historical literature regarding urolithiasis provide the student of history a list of famous stone sufferers [2–12]. Any cross-referenced confirmation of these patients' stone suffering was then traced. If there is identified confirmatory information from secondary sources, they were included in this list. Recognizing that, the list, no matter what details could be found, is likely to be incomplete. But then, adding to the list will fall upon the shoulders of others in the future. The particular emphasis was upon science writing and articles from the past, as the modern current literature suffers from society imposed necessity, to limit identification of the stone sufferer. In this article, there will be no emphasis on the suffering or treatment of these people. The purpose is to just generate a single list, as comprehensive as possible of famous stone patients.

Famous Stone Patients

The following table represents the verifiable list of famous stone patients. They are classified by the category or profession that each individual would be most identified. For some members of well-known stone patients such as Ben Franklin, he could be in several categories (but selected here as physicians, because of his particular medical interests in stone disease). In addition, in

each classification, they are listed in chronological order.

Pre-Christian Era: Mesolithic woman, El Amrah boy age 16 dated about 4,800 BC. (Prof. G. Elliott Smith in Hunterian Museum) first known stone former, Epicurus (270 BC).

Philosophers/Scientists: Erasmus of Rotterdam, Michel de Montaigne, Francis Bacon (and his brother), Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, Gottfried Leibniz, George-Louis Leclerc (Comte de Buffon), Robert Boyle, Benjamin Franklin, Horace Walpole, and Isaac Asimov.

Physicians: Hermann Boerhaave, Johan van Beverwijk, Thomas Sydenham, Antonio Scarpa, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Linacre, William Harvey, Saint Nicholas Steno, John Jones, Philip Syng Physick, Sir William Osler, and Richard Selzer.

Authors: Isaac Asimov, Samuel Pepys, Michel Montaigne, Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot), Llewelyn Powys, Jack London, Ethel Wilson, Isaac Asimov, Kevin Murphy, Chuck Palahniuk, Art Buchwald, Sir Walter Scott, David Sedaris, and Horace Walpole.

Clergy: Pope Vigilius, Saint Aelred of Rievaulx, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Cardinal Mazarin, John Wilkins (English clergyman), Pope Innocent XI, John Wilkins, Pope Clement XI, Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science founder), Billy Graham, Mother Teresa (perhaps one of her miracles), and Bishop David Zubik.

Leaders: Caesar Augustus, Henry II of Bavaria, Frederick III (King of Saxony), Dom Pedro I of Brazil, Empress Anna of Russia, Peter the Great, Louis XIV, Oliver Cromwell, Sir Kenelm Digby, James I of England, John Marshall, King George IV, John Hart (signer of the Declaration of Independence), Napoleon Bonaparte, King Leopold I of Belgium, Napoleon Bonaparte, Napoleon III, Nicias (leader of Athenian Army), Lord Cochrane, Lyndon Johnson, Dennis Hastert (House Speaker), John Prescott, Māori Queen

Dame Te Atairangikaahu, Myles Standish (Plymouth Colony), Robert Walpole, John Hart (Continental Congress), General James Wolfe, James Knox Polk, Colonel Edward M. House, Indira Gandhi, President Sukarno (Indonesia), Ratko Mladić (Serbian commander), Senator John McCain, Representative Tom Price, Representative Mike Simpson, Ted Kennedy, and Peter Mandelson (British politician).

Artists and Musicians: Ludwig van Beethoven, Michelangelo, Giovanni Gabrieli, Alan Ginsberg, Arthur Sullivan, Bing Crosby, Cole Porter, Brigit Nilsson, Charles Strouse, Peter Andre, Nick Drake, Billy Joel, and Adam Young.

Entertainers: Ava Gardner, Alfred Hitchcock, Lew Wasserman, Gay Talese, John Derek (husband of '10' Bo), Suzanne Strempek Shea, Roger Moore, Burt Reynolds, William Shatner, Tito El Bambino, Karl Pilkington, Bill O'Reilly, Kevin Murphy, Karl Pilkington, Buzz Kilman, Jamie Kennedy, Rob Schneider, Kiefer Sutherland, and Mike Vogel.

Athletes: Bob Hoffman (weightlifting), Joe Mauer (baseball), Bill Parcells (football coach), Sir Ranulph Fiennes (Antarctica explorer), Bruce Jenner (Olympian), Phil Jackson (basketball coach), Davis Love III (golfer), Bernhard Langer (golfer), Ian Holloway, Luiz Felipe Scolari (coach), Rafael Benitez (coach), Mark Recchi (hockey), Tony Gwynn (baseball), Dennis Cook (baseball), Ozzie Guillen (baseball coach), Rich Aurilia (baseball), Mike Cameron (bb), Derek Bell (bb), Tony Fernandez (bb), Bobby Jenks (bb), Whitey Kurowski (bb), Bill Mazerowski (bb), Tom Niedenfuer (bb), Miguel Olivo (bb), Jay Payton (bb), Brian Roberts (bb), Tim Salmon (bb), Joe Saunders (bb), Josh Willingham (bb), Robin Yount (bb), Jim Otto (Double Zero-football), and Bart Giamatti (Yale president and Commissioner of Baseball).

Fictitious TV/Movie Characters: Cosmo Kramer (Michael Richards) "The Gymnast" 6th episode of *Seinfeld*, Joey Tribbiani (Matt LeBlanc) of *Friends*, Al Swearengen (Ian McShane) in TV series *Deadwood*, Muddy Waters in an episode of

Family Guy, Duckman (from the cartoon *Duckman*), Brock (TV series *Reva*), and Maxwell Klinger (xx) in *M.A.S.H.*

Discussion

From the very earliest records, humans have been plagued by urolithiasis. There are no known ancient manuscripts that document individuals who have suffered, but the first known instance comes to us from Diogenes Laertius regarding the philosopher, Epicurus. His stone disease would result in loss of life. Some histories describe that the stone disease itself had affected the outcomes of wars, as in the case of Napoleon III. Others have had their suffering transformed into miraculous cures requiring sainthood (Saint Henry of Bavaria). Some have taken the desperate route of surgical lithotomy and lived to tell about it (Pepys and Marshall). Others braved the knife but were not so lucky, Leopold of Belgium. Stone sufferers have publicly aired their sufferings, which represent a literary legacy that has seldom been mentioned at stone meetings. Some writers have brazenly described their suffering from colic in magazines such as *Esquire* or in reference to their works (Alan Ginsberg and Richard Selzer) [1]. The notion of the stone patient's suffering that has most recently become a somewhat *cause célèbre* might be illustrated by the fictional characters that have been cropping up on sitcoms and TV shows, including Kramer from *Seinfeld* and Joey from *Friends*.

Whatever the interest in urolithiasis at science meetings, the focus is rightly on pathophysiology,

preventative strategies, incidence, therapeutics, and surgery. But the lessons of the past should not be forgotten, and the legacy of the individual might yet be introduced by knowledge of those who have suffered. Famous stone sufferers do not lead us to the knowledge that will change the disease, but their legacy should not be lost.

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