The first percutaneous renal biopsies in Italy

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The first percutaneous renal biopsies in Italy were performed in the Institute of Clinica Medica of the University of Pisa as early as 1951, soon after the publication of the pioneering paper of Iversen and Brun [1]. This happened thanks to the introduction into the Institute of the technique of pneumoretroperitoneum by doctor Aldo Torsoli (b. 1924) (fourth from the left in the figure), which led to a great improvement of the visualization of the kidneys. Torsoli and his colleagues also developed an original technique of renal biopsy, with the patient prone and a cutting needle of their own design [2], which preceded the technique described by Kark and Muherke in 1954 [3]. Ernico Fiaschi (1913–1989) (fourth from the right in the figure) had a pivotal role in all this. In 1953 he published the first Italian paper describing the results obtained by percutaneous renal biopsy in 10 subjects [4]. (Figure by courtesy of Professor Aldo Torsoli, Chair of Gastroenterology, Università La Sapienza, Roma.)

References


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