Chronic Renal Failure

Typical Case
• Examine arms of person with AV fistulae
• Dilated veins with scar
• Palpable pulsation
• Bruit- machinery hum
• Questions about dialysis/ different types, advantages/disadvantages

Chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD)
• Tenchoff catheter into abdomen
• Less expensive than haemodialysis
• More convenient as low tech (holidays)
• Relatively easy to teach technique
• Less time off work
• But many have to stop due to peritonitis
Ask about
• Energy levels (anaemia of chronic disease)
• Breathlessness (anaemia and fluid retention)
• Tingling feet (peripheral neuropathy)
• Skin- itching
• Skin- easy bruising (thrombocytopenia)
• Gout and bone pain

Plus
• Causes: diabetes, hypertension, analgesic use etc
• Treatments
• Effects on the patient’s life- holidays, work, activities of daily living

Hyperparathyroidism

Phosphate retention
  Reduces ionised calcium
  Stimulates parathyroid hormone
  PTH stimulates osteoclasts
  Causes bone resorption
  From tips of terminal phalanges and skull

Pseudoclubbing with hyperextension
  “Pepper-pot” skull
Hyperextension of terminal phalanges in chronic renal failure

Flexor tendons insert distally and extensor expansion inserts proximally into the terminal phalanx; when eroded by hyperparathyroidism, the flexor tendons snap and this appearance may result. Looks quite different from clubbing, but as it involves the terminal phalanx, it is sometimes referred to as “pseudoclubbing”.