- on the posterior abdominal wall.
- one on each side of the vertebral column.
- extend from T12 to L3.
- The right kidney is slightly lower in position than the left kidney.
BLOOD SUPPLY

RENAL ARTERIES
from the side of the aorta at level of L2.

1. Branches to the kidney (pass through its hilum).
2. Inferior suprarenal artery.
3. Branches to the pelvis of the ureter.

RENAL VEINS
- Terminate in the inferior vena cava.
- The right renal vein is shorter than the left vein.
left renal vein traverses an acute angle between SMA anteriorly and abdominal aorta posteriorly.

Downward traction on the SMA may compress the left renal vein (and perhaps the third part of the duodenum) resulting in a renal vein entrapment syndrome “nutcracker syndrome”.

The syndrome may include:
1. hematuria or proteinuria.
2. abdominal (left flank) pain.
3. nausea and vomiting (indicating compression of the duodenum).
4. left testicular pain (related to the left testicular vein).