

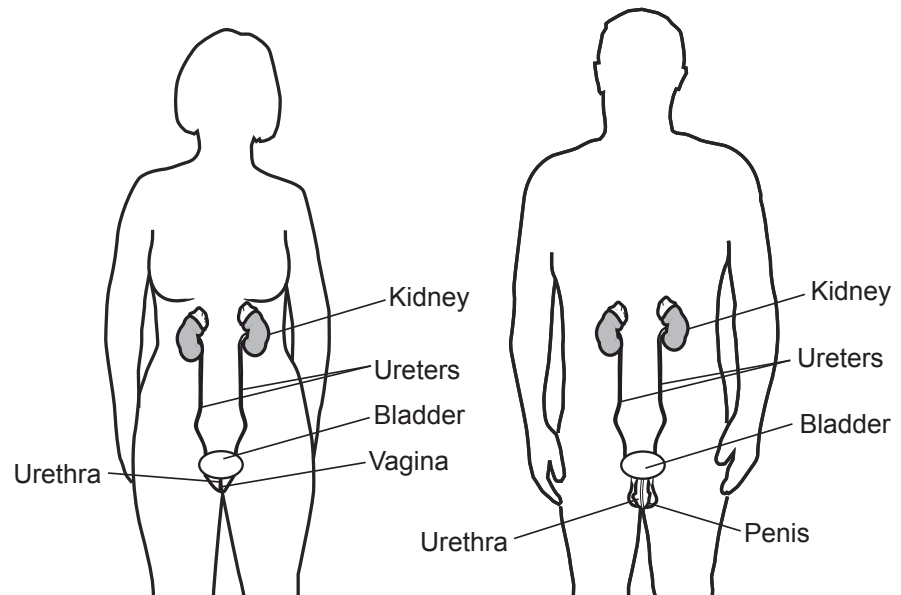
Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

Urinary tract infection, also called UTI, is an infection of the bladder or kidneys.

Causes

UTI may be caused by bacteria (germs) from:

- Urine that stays in your bladder after you urinate
- A blockage in the kidneys or kidney stones
- Irritation from tight slacks, nylon underwear or sexual intercourse
- Not keeping the genital area clean and dry
- Tube placed to drain urine (catheter)
- Bacteria from stool entering the urethra



Signs and Symptoms

- Burning or pain when passing urine
- Having to pass urine suddenly or often
- Pressure in the lower belly
- Urine that is bloody, cloudy or has a strong odor
- Pain in the lower back or side
- Feeling tired or not feeling well

Your Care

If you have symptoms of a UTI, tell your health care provider. A urine test can diagnose an infection. Your treatment may include:

- Taking antibiotics. Take all antibiotics as ordered until the bottle is empty, even if you feel better. If you do not take all of the medicine, your infection may return or get worse.
- Drinking at least 8 glasses of water each day.
- Avoiding drinks that have caffeine, such as coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Ways to Prevent UTI

- Keep your genital area clean.
- Take showers instead of tub baths.
- Empty your bladder every few hours even if you do not feel full.
- Women should always wipe from front to back after going to the toilet.
- Empty your bladder before and after sexual intercourse.
- Wear cotton underwear and loose pants.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of liquids a day.
- Avoid alcohol, and food and drinks with caffeine, as they can irritate the bladder and worsen symptoms.

Call your doctor right away if you:

- Have any signs of UTI
- Have nausea or vomiting
- Have back pain
- Have problems with your medicines
- Do not improve with treatment in 48 hours or your signs are worse in 24 hours

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.