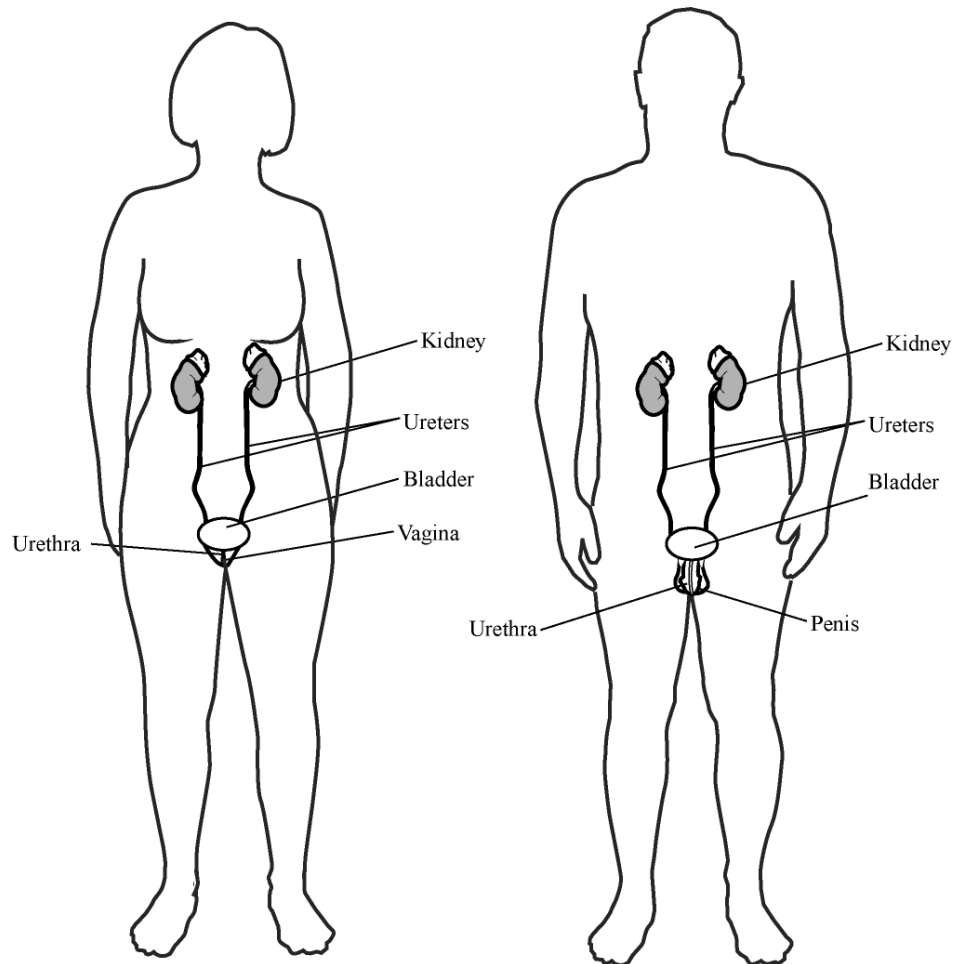


UTI (Urinary Tract Infection)

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



Causes

UTI may be caused by 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
- Poor hygiene
- Tube placed to drain urine
- Stool

Signs

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

Your Care

Tell your doctor your signs. Your treatment may include:

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

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. Include liquids that are high in Vitamin C, such as orange or cranberry juice.
- Avoid alcohol, and food and drinks with caffeine.

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.