



Urinary Tract Infection, Child

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection of the kidneys or bladder. This infection is usually caused by bacteria.

CAUSES

- Ignoring the need to urinate or holding urine for long periods of time.
- Not emptying the bladder completely during urination.
- In girls - wiping from back to front after urination or bowel movements.
- Using bubble bath, shampoos, or soaps in your child's bath water.
- Constipation.
- Abnormalities of the kidneys or bladder.

SYMPTOMS

- Frequent urination, pain or burning sensation or difficulty urinating.
- Urine that smells unusual, is cloudy or has blood in it.
- Lower abdominal or back pain.
- Bed wetting.
- Fever, irritability.

TREATMENT

A bladder infection (cystitis) or kidney infection (pyelonephritis) will usually respond to antibiotics. These are medications that kill germs. Your child should take all the medicine given until it is gone even if they feel better in a few days.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Give your child lots of fluid to drink, avoid caffeine, tea, and carbonated beverages.
- Do not use bubble bath, shampoos, or soaps in your child's bath water.
- Only give your child over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your child's healthcare provider.
- Do not give aspirin to children. It may cause Reye's syndrome.

TO PREVENT FURTHER INFECTIONS:

- Encourage your child to empty his or her bladder often and not to hold urine for long periods of time.
- After a bowel movement, girls should cleanse from front to back. Use each tissue only once.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child develops back pain.
- Your child has an oral temperature above 39°C (102°F). Your baby is younger than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or higher for more than 1 day.
- Your child develops nausea or vomiting.

This general advice cannot cover all possible problems. If there is concern, please contact your physician, healthcare provider or the Emergency Department without delay.



Lakeridge
Health

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- Your child's symptoms are no better after 3 days of antibiotics.

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