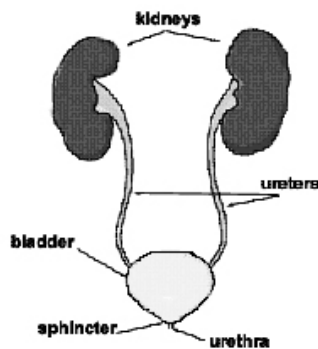


## What is a urinary tract infection (UTI)?

- A UTI happens when bacteria from outside of the body travels up the urethra into the bladder. This can also be called cystitis.
- If the bacteria travels up the ureters to the kidneys, it is called Pyelonephritis.

Front View of Urinary Tract



### Functions:

**Kidneys:** “Clean” the blood and make the urine

**Ureters:** Carry the urine from the kidneys to the bladder

**Bladder:** Holds and empties the urine

**Urethra:** The tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body.

## How will I know if my child has a UTI?

Babies with a UTI may:

- Cry more often and be irritable
- Have a fever
- Not want to breastfeed or take a bottle
- Not “acting like themselves”
- Foul smelling urine
- Appears weak

Children with a UTI may:

- Have a fever
- Complain of stomach pains
- Feel burning pain when they pee
- Feel like they need to pee all the time
- Have trouble holding their pee (accidents)
- Foul smelling urine

A doctor can do a urine test to find out for sure if your child has a urinary tract infection.

## How are UTI's treated?

**Antibiotics:** Antibiotic medicine will kill the bacteria (germs) in the bladder, kidneys or ureters that is causing the infection. Antibiotics are usually taken by mouth (liquid or pills). Sometimes a child may need to have the antibiotics given through an intravenous (IV), which is a small needle placed in the vein of your child's arm.

It is very important that your child finishes all of the antibiotics, even if he/she starts to feel better. The UTI will not be completely gone unless all of the antibiotics are taken. Antibiotics **may** be stopped early if an allergic reaction or side effect develops. Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you what side effects to look out for.

## Tests

- Once the antibiotics are finished, take your child to your family doctor for a follow up appointment. Your doctor will assess your child and decide if further tests need to be done.
- If your child still has UTI symptoms your doctor may suggest other tests, even if no bacteria remains.

## Lots of Fluids

Give extra water to child/teen to help flush out the bladder and get rid of the bacteria in the urine.

If your baby is breastfed, nurse more often and. If your baby is formula fed, give plain water in between feedings.

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# Urinary Tract Infections & Pyelonephritis

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