



Pediatric Urology

What You Need to Know

Urology Care
FOUNDATION™
*The Official Foundation of the
 American Urological Association*

What is Urology?

Urology is a branch of medicine focused on the male and female urinary system, and the male reproductive system.

- The urinary system makes, stores, and removes waste from the body in the form of urine. This system is a pathway made of the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra.
- The male reproductive system makes, stores and transports semen for reproduction. It's made of the penis, testes, seminal vesicals, and prostate.

A doctor that evaluates and treats conditions that affect these body parts is called a Urologist.

What do Urologists do?

A urologist is a medical doctor and surgeon. They have expertise in the urologic system and male reproductive system. These doctors train for many years after medical school to become a specialist.

Men, women and children may need care from a urologist for things like incontinence (leaking urine) or kidney stones. Urologists can also help with infertility, or cancer. A child may go to a urologist for bedwetting or an injury to the urinary system. It's best for children to work with a pediatric urologist.

Who are Pediatric Urologists?

Pediatric urologists are surgeons who can diagnose, treat, and manage children's urinary and genital problems. To

become a pediatric urologist, a doctor has to train for as many as 12-14 years. This includes medical school, training in urology and extra years of training with children. Most pediatric urologists take special exams to become Board Certified to treat children.

Why is Pediatric Urology Different?

Pediatric urologists have the skill to care for patients from birth through the teen years. They can make children feel at ease about topics that are hard to talk about. Many urologic issues are found only in children. Their bodies are different from adults; not fully grown. If surgery is needed, an expert in treating children is of great value.

Some patients stay with their doctor after the teen years if needed.

Why Visit a Pediatric Urologist?

Pediatric Urologists care for children with:

- Urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Problems with holding or passing urine, like: bedwetting (nighttime enuresis), daytime wetting (enuresis)
- Kidney stones
- Genital problems that children are born with (congenital), including hypospadias (a birth defect in the penis), undescended testes, or other issues.
- Problems with urine flow, such as a block in the urinary tract or reflux (the backwards flow of urine)

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- Bladder dysfunction
- Pediatric cancers of the urinary tract: wilms tumor, kidney tumors, rhabdomyosarcoma, testicular cancer
- Hormone functions

How Can I Find a Pediatric Urologist?

Your general pediatrician can help you find a Pediatric Urologist near you. You can also use the “Find a Urologist” search-tool on **UrologyHealth.org**.

Questions to Ask Your Health Care Provider:

- Are you Board Certified in Pediatric Urology? If not, can you refer me to one?
- Do you have experience treating other children with (this problem)?
- Do you accept my insurance?

ABOUT THE UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION

The Urology Care Foundation is the world’s leading urologic foundation – and the official foundation of the American Urological Association. We provide information for those actively managing their urologic health and those ready to make health changes. Our information is based on the American Urological Association resources and is reviewed by medical experts.

To learn more, visit the Urology Care Foundation’s website, **UrologyHealth.org/UrologicConditions** or go to **UrologyHealth.org/FindAUrologist** to find a doctor near you.

DISCLAIMER:

This information is not a tool for self-diagnosis or a substitute for professional medical advice. It is not to be used or relied on for that purpose. Please talk to your urologist or health care provider about your health concerns. Always consult a health care provider before you start or stop any treatments, including medications.

For more information about urologic conditions, visit **UrologyHealth.org/Order** or call 800-828-7866.

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