

Pediatric Urology

What You Should Know



What is Urology?

Urology is a special area of medicine with a focus on how the urinary and reproductive systems work and how those systems form and grow before and after birth.

- The urinary system makes, stores and gets rid of waste from the body in the form of urine. This system is a pathway made up of the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra.
- The male reproductive system makes, stores and moves semen for reproduction. It is made up of the penis, testes, seminal vesicles and prostate.
- The female reproductive system is in charge of egg production, menstruation, sexual activity and having children. It is made up the ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus and vagina. In some conditions, the female reproductive tract and urinary tract may be involved.

A doctor that reviews and treats conditions that affect these body parts is called a urologist.

What do Urologists do?

A urologist is a surgeon and medical doctor. They are experts 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 (urine leaks) or kidney stones. Urologists can also help with infertility or cancer. A child may go to a urologist for urine leaks and infections, or for concerns about injury to or anatomic problems with the body parts that make up the urinary and reproductive systems.

Who are Pediatric Urologists?

Pediatric urologists 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 certified to only 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. Some urologic issues are found only in children. Children may be born with urologic issues. Their bodies are not the same as adults because they are 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:

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



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- Pediatric cancers of the urinary tract: Wilms tumor, kidney tumors, rhabdomyosarcoma, testicular cancer
- Questions about hormone function

How Can I Find a Pediatric Urologist?

Your general pediatrician can help you find a Pediatric Urologist near you.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor:

- Are you certified in Pediatric Urology? If not, can you refer me to a pediatric urologist?
- 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.

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/Download or call 800-828-7866.

