



Canadian Undergraduate Urology Curriculum (CanUUC):

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS



Last reviewed June 2014

UTI: Objectives

Describe the signs and symptoms of bacterial cystitis and pyelonephritis.

Define when to treat asymptomatic bacteruria.

List the common bacteria causing UTI.

List the common classes of antimicrobials used to treat urinary tract infections.

UTI: Objectives (cont'd):

Outline the investigation and treatment of bacterial cystitis and pyelonephritis.

Describe treatment regimens available for a patient with recurrent bacterial cystitis.

Recognize the importance of early diagnosis and emergent treatment of an obstructed UTI.

Bacterial Cystitis

Signs & Symptoms

SYMPTOMS

- Frequency
- Urgency
- Dysuria
- Hematuria - microscopic or gross
- Pain - suprapubic or urethral
- Foul-smelling urine

SIGNS

Suprapubic tenderness

Pyelonephritis

Signs & Symptoms

- Same as bacterial cystitis, plus:

SYMPTOMS

- Flank pain
- General malaise
- Chills, sweats, rigors
- Nausea & vomiting
- Confusion / decreased level of consciousness
 - End-stage, due to sepsis

SIGNS

- Fever
- Abdominal tenderness
- Costovertebral angle tenderness
- Tachycardia
- Hypotension
- Unwell, unwell, flushed, diaphoretic, toxic

Asymptomatic Bacteriuria

When to Treat?

The presence of bacteria in the urine without signs or symptoms of infection

Absolute Indications to treat:

- ⇒ Pregnancy
- ⇒ Before urological/urogynecological procedures

Relative Indications to treat (controversial):

- ⇒ Before surgical procedures with implant material
- ⇒ Transplant patients
- ⇒ Immunocompromised state
- ⇒ Women with recurrent UTI's

Uncomplicated Cystitis

Common Pathogens

E. coli 75-90%

Staph saprophyticus 10-20%

Klebsiella 3-4%

Enterococcus 2-3%

Proteus 2-3%

Other 3%

Uncomplicated Pyelonephritis

Common Pathogens

E. coli	75-85%
Klebsiella	4-5%
Proteus	4-5%
Enterococcus	3-4%
Pseudomonas	2-3%
Serratia	1-2%
Mixed and other	7%

Complicated UTI Common Pathogens

E. coli	32%
Enterococcus	22%
Pseudomonas	22%
Klebsiella	5%
Proteus	1%
Staph saprophyticus	14%
Mixed and other	4%

UTI Antimicrobials

Common Classes

Penicillins/aminopenicillins (Amoxicillin, ampicillin)

Cephalosporins (Cephalexin, ceftriaxone)

Fluoroquinolones (Ciprofloxacin, noroxin, levofloxacin)

Aminoglycosides (Gentamicin, tobramycin)

Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole

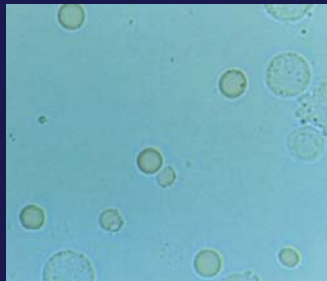
Nitrofurantoin

Tetracyclines

Uncomplicated Bacterial Cystitis Investigation

Microscopic urinalysis

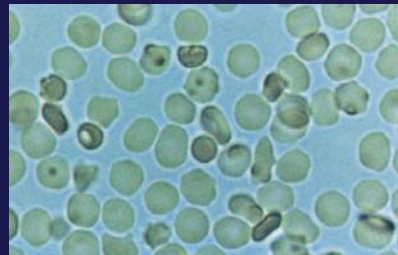
- Pyuria (WBC's)
- Hematuria (RBC's)
- Bacteriuria



Pyuria

Rapid screen (indirect) dipsticks

- Nitrites (bacteriuria)
- Leukocyte esterase (pyuria)



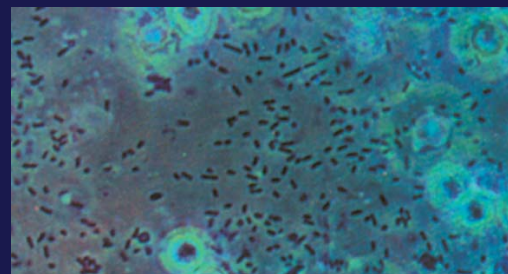
Hematuria

Urine culture & sensitivity

- Often not necessary for simple UTI
- Less cost-effective

Extensive investigation unnecessary

- Radiologic tests
- Endoscopy



Bacterial Cystitis Management

Non-Pharmacologic

- ⇒ Good hygiene
- ⇒ Increased fluid intake
- ⇒ Regular/timed voids
- ⇒ Cranberry juice/pills/extract

Bacterial Cystitis Treatment

Pharmacologic

- ⇒ Single dose vs. 3-day vs. 5-day vs. 7-day
- ⇒ 3 to 5-day probably best
 - Effective, cost-effective, low recurrence, sterilization of introitus, few side effects
- ⇒ Choice of antibiotic
 - Guidelines useful, but choice should depend on local pathogens and resistance patterns

Bacterial Cystitis

Antibiotic Options

Fluoroquinolones

1st choice in some guidelines

Broad spectrum

Excellent side effect profile

Multiple resistance

TMP/SMX

- Efficacious against uropathogens

- No effect on vaginal or fecal flora

- Few side effects if duration short

- Increasing resistance (19%)

Nitrofurantoin

- Efficacious against E. coli

- No adverse effect on fecal flora

- Narrow spectrum

- Significant adverse event profile

Pyelonephritis

Investigation

- ⇒ Same as cystitis, plus:
- ⇒ Bloodwork – CBC, lytes, creatinine
- ⇒ Blood cultures (for sepsis)
- ⇒ Upper tract imaging – U/S or CT
 - ? obstruction
 - ? stone(s)
 - ? abscess
 - ? pyonephrosis
 - ? anatomic abnormality

Pyelonephritis Treatment

Route? IV vs. oral antibiotics

Patient disposition? Inpatient vs. outpatient therapy

Duration? 7-10 days vs. 14-21 days

Depends on how sick patient is at presentation:

- Looks well, low grade fever → outpatient oral fluoroquinolone
- Looks unwell, high grade fever → admit to hospital for IV antibiotics (ie. cephalosporin or ampicillin and gentamicin)

longer course of antibiotics needed, may require IV antibiotics in hospital

Complicated UTI: Infection occurring with functional or structural abnormalities of the urinary tract

PATIENT FACTORS

Children

Pregnancy

Male

Diabetes

Immunosuppression

Spinal cord injury

Hospitalized

Recent antibiotic treatment

URINARY TRACT FACTORS

- Stones
- Obstruction
- Indwelling tubes
- Congenital anomalies
- Voiding dysfunction
- Persistent infection
- Unusual organisms

Microbiological studies

Complicated UTI

Investigations

- ⇒ Same as uncomplicated UTI, plus:
- ⇒ Further investigations to rule out underlying predisposing factors
 - Diagnostic imaging
 - Endoscopy

Complicated UTI

Diagnostic Imaging

- Plain radiography
 - KUB and tomograms – gas and calculi
 - IVP – upper urinary tract anatomy and obstruction
 - VCUG – when VU reflux or posterior urethral valves are suspected
- U/S
 - Hydronephrosis or high post-void residual urine
- CT – best anatomic detail/most sensitive
- MRI – little benefit over CT (no radiation)
- Nuclear medicine – localize abscess

Complicated UTI

Endoscopy of Urinary Tract

- **Cystourethroscopy – lower tract**
 - Urethral diverticulum, bladder stone, bladder outlet obstruction leading to urinary stasis and lower urinary tract infection
- **Ureterorenoscopy – upper tracts**
 - Sloughed papilla, fungus ball, or any other cause of ureteral obstruction leading to upper tract infection

Can be diagnostic and/or therapeutic

Complicated UTI

Treatment

- Same as uncomplicated UTI, plus:
- Long-term antibiotic therapy often necessary
- Systemic support as required
 - Hydration, monitoring, ICU
- Urinary drainage as indicated
 - Bladder catheter, percutaneous nephrostomy, ureteral stent
- Surgery as indicated
 - Bladder outlet obstruction
 - Stones
 - Ureteropelvic junction obstruction
 - Strictures of ureter or urethra
 - Xanthogranulomatous/emphysematous pyelonephritis

Case # 1

Recurrent UTI's

23 y/o healthy female with recurrent UTI's

Symptoms: frequency, urgency, dysuria,
suprapubic pain, no fever

7 UTI's over past 3 years, 4 in past year

E. coli

Recurrent Bacterial Cystitis

Treatment Regimens

Continuous prophylaxis

Long-term, ie. 3-12 months

Low dose (once daily) of less potent antibiotic
ie. Nitrofurantoin 50 mg PO OD

Post-coital prophylaxis

1-2 doses max. pre-coital (if possible) and post-coital

Patient self-treatment

Patients (mostly women) self diagnose their UTI

Take a 3-day course of antibiotics

Contact MD if no response by 48 hours

Urine C&S

No antibiotic

Case # 1

Management

Lifestyle modifications

- Adequate fluid intake
- Timed/regular voids
- Cranberry juice/pills
- Good hygiene
- Post-coital voiding

Long-term prophylactic antibiotics

- Nitrofurantoin 50 mg PO OD x 3 months x 3 repeats
- PRN

Case # 2

Obstructive Urosepsis

58 y/o diabetic male with history of urolithiasis

Hx: Right flank pain and fever x 2 days

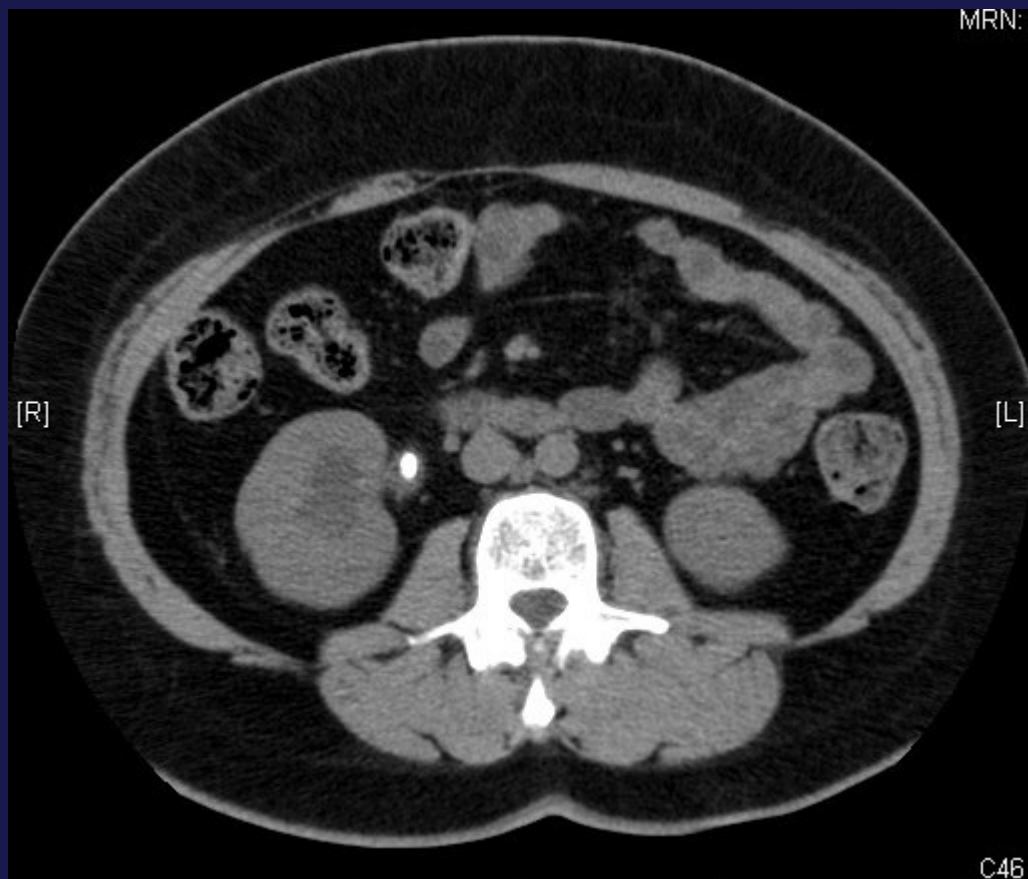
Px: unwell, flushed, uncomfortable, tachycardia, hypotension, febrile (T 39.2 ° C)

Labs: WBC 19.0, creat 165

CT scan: 9 mm proximal right ureteral stone + hydronephrosis

Case # 2

CT Scan



Obstructive UTI

Urologic Emergency

Acute ureteral obstruction

Most common cause = ureteral calculus

Presentation:

Hx: flank pain, history of stones, diabetic

Px: fever, unwell, flushed, diaphoretic, toxic-appearing

Investigations:

Labs: leukocytosis, elevated creatinine from dehydration

U/S or CT: hydronephrosis, pyonephrosis, stone

Life-threatening condition

Requires urgent renal drainage

“Don’t let the sun set
on a septic stone”



Case # 2

Management

Admit to hospital

Attention to ABC's

IV fluids (ARF pre-renal from dehydration)

IV antibiotics

- Ceftriaxone 1-2 g IV q24H
- May be changed according to urine culture

Urgent renal drainage

- Percutaneous nephrostomy
- Ureteral stent

Elective (delayed) definitive treatment of