

Focus On: Hydronephrosis

Hydronephrosis is swelling of the kidneys.

It's caused by a buildup of urine.

This can happen if a tube that drains urine from your kidneys is blocked.

The blockage can come from within the urinary tract or from pressure outside of the tract.

This condition is often caused by a blockage such as a kidney stone, tumor, or blood clot.

It can also be caused by an enlarged prostate, pregnancy, urinary tract infection, or tissue scarring from an injury or surgery.

Some of the common symptoms are: pain in one or both sides of the body, nausea or vomiting, painful urination, fever, a urinary tract infection, having to pee more often, or blood in the urine.

Some people have no symptoms.

Treatment depends on the cause of the kidney swelling.

Your doctor may wait and see if the blockage resolves on its own. If you have a kidney stone, you may also wait for the stone to pass.

You may also have a stent placed to open the tube that drains urine from your kidneys. Or you may have a tube placed in your kidneys to drain the blocked urine into a drainage bag.

Sometimes surgery is needed to clear the blockage.

To learn more about hydronephrosis, talk to your doctor.