



Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) in Children



Overview

This is an infection of any part of the urinary system. That's the system that collects and removes urine from the body.

Causes

What causes a UTI? Usually, it happens when germs enter the urethra. The bacteria *E. coli* is a common cause. It normally lives in the large intestine. But it spreads through poop, and it can get into the urethra. UTIs are more common in girls. That's because girls have a shorter urethra than boys do.

Symptoms (in babies)

What are the symptoms? In babies, you may notice fussiness, crying and fever. Their pee may smell bad. They may have vomiting or diarrhea, and they may feed poorly.

Symptoms (in children)

In children, a UTI may make your child lose control of their bladder. They may need to pee suddenly and often. Or, they may have trouble peeing, and it may hurt. You may see blood in their urine, and it may smell bad. They may also have pain in their front, back or side. They may have fever, chills, nausea and vomiting. And they may feel tired.

Treatment

Treatment options may include antibiotics and medicine to relieve pain. A heating pad may help. And, children should drink plenty of water. Your doctor will create a care plan that's right for you.

