



Urinary Tract Infections

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are caused by growth of bacteria within the urinary tract. Both boys and girls can be affected. Symptoms are typically:

- Pain with urination
- Urinary frequency
- Incontinence (urinary accidents)

Some children can also have fever, vomiting, abdominal or back pain. If your child is suspected of having a urinary tract infection a urine sample is obtained. A test called a urinalysis or urine dipstick is performed in most offices. This test can determine if an infection may be present in your child's urine but a urine culture is needed to confirm if a true infection is present.

Risk factors for urinary tract infections include poor toileting habits, constipation, and children with urinary tract abnormalities. Along with antibiotic treatment for the infection, it is important to address any risk factors that can cause the UTI. Some children may need further evaluation that includes imaging such as; an abdominal X-Ray to rule out constipation, an ultrasound of the kidneys and bladder, and/or a voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) to rule out vesicoureteral reflux.