

Urology Basics

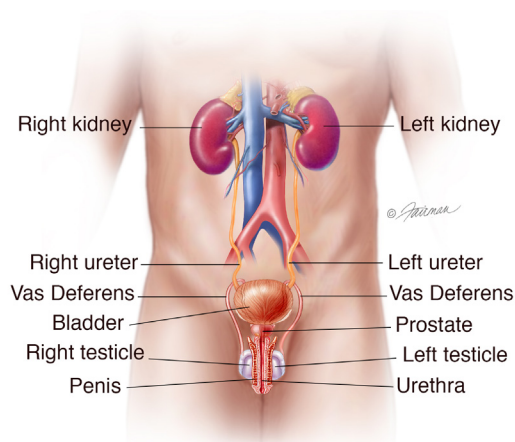
What You Should Know



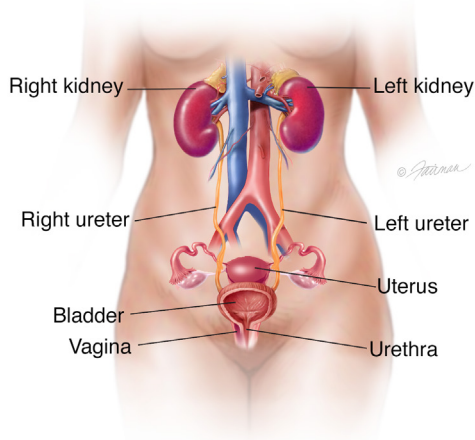
What is Urology?

Urology is a branch of medicine that deals with health problems of the male and female urinary systems, and the male reproductive system.

Male urinary tract



Female urinary tract



The urinary tract stores and gets rid of urine (liquid waste) and extra water. The urinary tract is a pathway in the body. It includes the kidneys, ureters (tubes from kidneys to bladder), bladder and urethra (tube from bladder to outside the body). The male reproductive system makes, stores and moves semen to make babies. It's made of the prostate, scrotum, testes and penis. A doctor who specializes in these body parts is called a urologist.

What are Urologists?

A urologist is a medical doctor and surgeon. Urologists are trained to find, treat and handle urinary and genital problems. They gain 15+ years of school and training (undergraduate, medical and residency) before they can be certified by the American Board of Urology. They learn about the latest care through training during their career. This type of doctor is called a "specialist."

Urology nurses (RNs), nurse practitioners (NPs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and physician assistants (PAs) also work in a urology office. They gain training to work in urology too. Some urologists are sub-specialists. This means they have extra wisdom in parts of urology. They may focus on children, cancer, infertility, the kidneys or the nervous system. For example, pediatric urologists treat children with urologic conditions.

What is a Pediatric Urologist?

A pediatric urologist's job is to find, treat and handle children's urinary and genital problems. Children's bodies are not fully grown, so they need different care than adults. If surgery is needed, an expert in treating children is of great value. Pediatric urologists care for patients from birth through the teen years.

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Why Visit a Urologist?

Urologists help patients with health issues like:

- Pain when passing urine (peeing), like a urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Problems with urine leaks, like with incontinence
- Bladder issues, like overactive bladder (OAB)
- Kidney stones
- Problems with urine flow
- Problems getting pregnant (infertility)
- Problems with genitals (male or female sex organs)
- Enlarged prostate or prostatitis
- Cancers in the kidneys, bladder, testicles, penis or prostate
- Male hormone problems, like low testosterone

How Can I Find a Urologist?

Your primary care doctor can help you find a local urologist. You can also use the “Find a Urologist” search-tool on UrologyHealth.org.

Questions to Ask:

- Are you Board-certified in urology? If not, can you refer me to someone who is?
- Do you have experience treating my problem?
- Do you take 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 or go to UrologyHealth.org/FindAUrologist to find a doctor near you.

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 talk to a health care provider before you start or stop any treatments, including medications.

For more information about Prostate Cancer and other urologic conditions, visit UrologyHealth.org/Download or call 800-828-7866.