URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are common in kids. They happen when bacteria (germs) get into the bladder or kidneys.

As many as 8 in 100 girls and 2 in 100 boys will get UTIs.

Young children have a greater risk of kidney damage linked to UTIs than older children or adults.

UTIs affect 3% of children every year.

Annually, pediatric UTIs account for more than 1 million office visits in the U.S.

Babies under 12 months old are more likely to have a UTI than older children.

During the first few months of life, UTIs are more common in boys than in girls.

UTIs are most common in children under the age of 5 years.

By age 1, girls are more likely to develop a UTI than boys—and girls continue to have a higher risk throughout childhood and the teen years.

Symptoms of pediatric UTIs may include:

1. Pain, burning or a stinging sensation during urination
2. Need to urinate more often, or difficulty getting urine out
3. Urgent need to urinate, or wetting of underwear or bedding by a child who knows how to use the toilet
4. Vomiting, refusal to eat
5. Foul-smelling urine
6. Cloudy or bloody urine
7. Unexplained and persistent irritability in an infant
8. Fever
9. Belly pain in the area of the bladder (generally below the belly button)
10. Side or back pain

Although uncommon, the presence of a fever, back pain or vomiting may signal a more serious infection that could be affecting the kidneys. If your child has these symptoms, see his or her physician right away.

There are certain things that may make your child more likely to develop a bladder infection. They include:

1. Not emptying the bladder fully.
2. Waiting too long to urinate.
3. Constipation.
4. Family history of UTIs.
5. Vescicoureteral reflux (VUR)—the backward flow of some urine from the bladder toward the kidneys during urination.
6. Poor wiping techniques.

In children, the bladder can hold 1 to 1 ½ ounces of urine for each year of age. For example, a 4-year old child’s bladder can hold 4 to 6 ounces—a little less than a cup.

The primary treatment for UTI is usually antibiotics.