Read All About It: PEDIATRIC UTIs & VESICOURETERAL REFLUX (VUR)

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

There are two types of UTIs: bladder infection and kidney infection.

UTIs happen more often in girls than in boys. As many as 8 in 100 girls and 2 in 100 boys will get UTIs.
### Signs of UTIs in Kids

- Complaining of pain, burning or a stinging sensation when urinating
- Needing to urinate more often, but only passing a few drops
- Fever
- Crying when he or she urinates
- Trouble controlling urine and having accidents or wetting the bed
- Foul-smelling urine that may look cloudy or have blood in it

The only way to diagnose a UTI is with a urine test and most UTIs are treated with antibiotics.

### Common Causes of UTIs in Children

- **Blockage in the Urinary Tract**
  Urine flow may get blocked at places in the urinary tract because of abnormal narrow areas in the urinary tract that prevent the normal flow of urine.

- **Bladder and Bowel Problems**
  Bladder and bowel problems are an important and often overlooked factor in the cause of UTIs in kids.

- **Vesicoureteral Reflux (VUR)**
  When urine flows backward (reflux) from the bladder up the ureters to the kidneys. This urine may carry bacteria and cause a kidney infection. Many kids with a UTI are found to have it.

VUR can be treated with antibiotics. If more severe, surgery may be needed. The chances of getting VUR go up if the child’s parents or siblings have had the condition.