



Urology Basics

What You Should Know

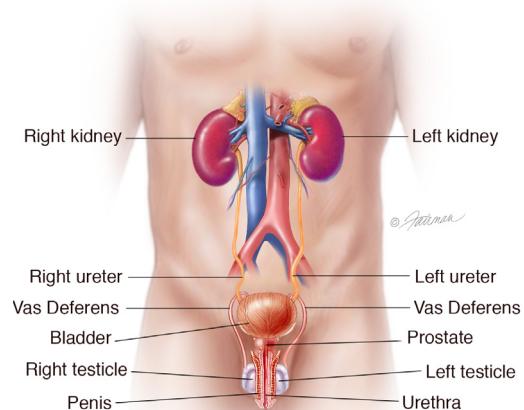
Urology Care
FOUNDATION™

The Official Foundation of the
American Urological Association

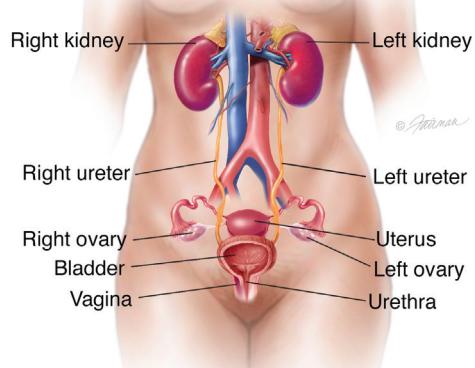
What is Urology?

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, bladder and urethra.

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 a surgeon. They are trained to find, treat and handle urinary and genital problems. They gain more than 15 years of school and training before they can be certified by the American Board of Urology. They learn about up-to-date care by training throughout 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, children with urologic conditions are treated by pediatric urologists.

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What is a Pediatric Urologist?

A pediatric urologist is certified to find, treat and handle children's urinary and genital problems. Children's bodies are not fully grown, so they are different. If surgery is needed, an expert in treating children is important. Pediatric urologists care for patients from birth through the teen years. They are very skilled, and make it easy to talk about any one thing.

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 about urologic and reproductive health. 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, go to UrologyHealth.org/FindAUrologist to find a doctor near you, or call 800-828-7866 to order information.

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 urologists or health care provider about your health concerns. Always talk to a health care provider before you start or stop any treatments, including medications.

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