



Detroit Medical Center Urology Information

Urologists are physicians specializing in the urinary tract in both genders, and the genital tract or reproductive system in the male.

Other health professionals who treat urinary or urogenital problems include primary care physicians, pediatricians, gynecologists, urogynecologists, and nephrologists. The DMC is home to many of the state's leading experts in Urology.

What causes problems in the urinary system?

Problems in the urinary system may include conditions such as kidney failure, urinary tract infections, kidney stones, prostate enlargement, and bladder control problems. These problems in the urinary system may be caused by the following:

- **Aging:** as we age, changes in the structure of the kidneys can cause them to lose some ability to remove wastes from the blood, and the muscles in the ureters, bladder, and urethra tend to lose some of their strength. Urinary infections may occur because the bladder muscles do not tighten enough to empty the bladder completely. A decrease in strength of muscles of the sphincters and the pelvis, that may be associated with age, can also cause incontinence.
- **Illness or injury:** Damage to the kidneys caused by illness or an injury can also prevent them from filtering the blood completely or block the passage of urine.

About urogenital diseases:

Diseases of the kidney and urinary tract remain a major cause of illness and death in the United States. The National Kidney Foundation states that more than 20 million Americans are affected by kidney and urologic diseases, and millions more are at risk.

What are the symptoms of a kidney and/or urinary tract disease?

The following are the most common symptoms of a kidney and/or urinary tract disease. However, each individual may experience symptoms differently. Symptoms may include:

- frequent headaches
- fatigue
- itchiness all over the body
- burning or difficulty during urination
- frequent urination, particularly at night
- infrequent urination
- blood in the urine
- loss of appetite
- nausea and/or vomiting
- puffiness around eyes and/or swelling of hands and feet
- skin may darken
- muscle cramps or pain in small of back just below the ribs (not aggravated by movement)
- high blood pressure

The symptoms of a kidney and/or urinary tract disease may resemble other conditions or medical problems. Always consult your physician for a diagnosis.

If you are concerned about any of these conditions, discuss them with your doctor. If you do not have a doctor, the DMC can find one for you. Call 888-DMC-2500 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.