

Glossary

Balanitis - infection or inflammation of the head of the penis, most commonly due to chemical irritation, or bacterial infection, or both

Balanoposthitis - infection or inflammation of the head of the penis and of the foreskin, most commonly due to chemical irritation, or bacterial infection, or both

Biofeedback - helps a child become aware of the state of contraction or relaxation of the external sphincter muscle and the pelvic floor muscles, considered a first step towards establishing personal control over these muscles and the voiding process, biofeedback involves the use of the tactile, auditory, and visual senses to assess the state of the pelvic floor muscles.

Bladder - the muscular storage organ for urine, situated in the midline in the pelvis

Clean intermittent catheterization - a technique to routinely empty the bladder in children with serious causes voiding dysfunction such as neurogenic bladder

Constipation - a problem associated with infrequent, hard, wide, or difficult to pass bowel movements

Cystitis - infection in the bladder

Darifenacin - a new medication used to treat day and night time wetting, helps the bladder to hold more urine, not approved for use in children

DDAVP - a medication used to treat bedwetting, limits the amount of urine produced by the kidney

Detrol (tolterodine) - a medication used to treat day and nighttime wetting, helps the bladder to hold more urine, not approved for use in children

Detrusor muscle - the muscle in the bladder that contracts to push the urine out

Detrusor-sphincter dyssynergia - a bladder abnormality found exclusively in children with neurogenic bladder, the detrusor muscle contracts but the external sphincter does not relax to allow the urine to come out.

Ditropan (oxybutynin) - a medication used to treat day and nighttime wetting, helps the bladder to hold more urine

Diurnal enuresis - daytime wetting

Dysfunctional voiding - a group of more serious bladder problems associated with emptying difficulties

Dysuria - discomfort with voiding, usually appreciated as a burning sensation where the urine comes out, but also refers to any pain felt during voiding including discomfort in the bladder, groin, flank, or back

Ectopic ureter - a ureter that does not insert in the correct position in the bladder, a potential cause of wetting when the ureter inserts distal to the external sphincter muscle, an uncommon problem, much more common in girls

Encopresis (soiling) - the loss of stool in the underwear

Enuresis - the scientific word for bedwetting

Epispadias - an uncommon congenital problem with absence of portions of the urethra and the external sphincter muscle

Expected bladder capacity - the expected volume of urine that a bladder should be able to store before voiding, varies with age

External urethral sphincter muscle - a muscle situated where the urethra comes out of the bladder and that controls the flow of urine

Fractionated voiding - a type of dysfunctional voiding associated with low activity of the detrusor muscle, typically presents with several small volume consecutive voids and incomplete emptying

Frequency - voiding 8 or more times a day

Functional bladder capacity - the volume of urine when an individual feels the urge to void; can vary void by void and day by day in an individual

Gastro-colic reflex - contraction of the lower bowel (colic) in response to a meal and distension of the stomach (gastric)

Giggle incontinence - wetting associated with hearty laughter, implies complete emptying of the bladder

Hinman syndrome - a serious and uncommon cause of dysfunctional voiding associated with damage to the kidneys

Incontinence - wetting by day

Infrequent voiding - voiding 3 or less times a day

Interrupted voiding - when the urine stream starts and stops

Kidney - one of two organs situated on the sides and in the back of abdomen and that produce urine by cleaning (filtering) the blood

Labia majora - the outside larger lips that cover the female genitalia

Labia minora - the insider smaller lips that cover the female genitalia

Labial fusion - fusion of the labia minora, usually associated with vulvitis, increases the risk for bladder infection

Lazy bladder - a type of dysfunctional voiding associated with decompensation of the detrusor muscle, typically presents with infrequent voiding, incomplete emptying, and bladder infection

Magnetic resonance imaging - the best x-ray to check the lower spine for evidence of a variety of problems that might cause neurogenic bladder

Meatal stenosis - narrowing of the hole where the urine comes out of the penis, almost exclusively in circumcised boys, can cause difficulties with the urinary stream

Miralax - a stool softener

Neurogenic bladder - an abnormal bladder because the nerves from the spinal cord are interrupted

Nitrofurantoin - an antibiotic often used to prevent or treat urinary tract infections

Nocturia - getting up at night to void

Nocturnal enuresis - bedwetting

Ochoa syndrome - a rare inherited problem that presents with daytime wetting, bladder infection, damaged kidneys, constipation, and a peculiar facial distortion such that when the patient is smiling the appearance is that of crying.

Overactive bladder - another name for urge syndrome

Pelvic floor muscles - a group of muscles on the pelvic floor and that are important in voiding and defecating

Phimosis - inability to retract the foreskin in an uncircumcised boy

Posterior urethra - the part of the urethra closest to the bladder

Posterior urethral valves - a serious congenital blockage of the urethra in boys, requires surgery, and often associated with kidney failure

Primary nocturnal enuresis - wetting at night without any history of a period of dryness

Pyelonephritis - infection in the kidney

Renal - another word for kidney

Residual volume of urine - the volume of urine left in the bladder after emptying is complete, should be less than a teaspoon (5 ml)

Secondary nocturnal enuresis - wetting at night after a period of at least six consecutive months of dryness

Squatting - a posture used by some girls in response to the urgent sensation of the need to void, helps to minimize the amount of wetting

Stress incontinence - wetting associated with increases in intra-abdominal pressure such as with obese individuals, coughing, sneezing, or some athletic activities

Trimethoprim - an antibiotic often used to prevent or treat urinary tract infections

Prophylactic antibiotic - an antibiotic used to prevent urinary tract infections

Ultrasound - a helpful painless procedure to assess the anatomy and some aspects of the function of the bladder and kidney, no known side effects

Ureter - one of two tubes that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder

Urethra - the tube that carries the urine from the bladder outside the body

Urethral meatus - the opening of the urethra to the outside of the body

Urethral obstruction - blockage in the urethra, the most common form of which is meatal stenosis in boys, posterior urethral valves is a less common cause also exclusively in boys, congenital and acquired strictures, diverticuli, and polyps are uncommon causes of blockage in both boys and girls

Urethral stricture - narrowing of the urethra, might be congenital, or acquired after injury or infection in the urethra

Urethritis - infection in the urethra

Urge syndrome - a bladder problem characterized by urgency, frequency, and incontinence, often associated with bladder infection, constipation, and ignoring the signal of the need to void

Urgency - a sudden sensation of the need to void

Urinary tract infection - infection located somewhere in the urinary system, does not refer to a specific site

Urodynamic study - a procedure to assess bladder function, requires a catheter and is therefore emotionally and physically invasive, necessary in selected children with severe voiding dysfunction, such as those with identified neurogenic bladder

Uroflow - a helpful painless procedure to assess the function of the bladder, no known side effects

Urotherapy - physiotherapy for the bladder that involves scheduled voiding, the simplest form of biofeedback

Vaginal reflux of urine - trapping of urine in the vagina in girls who keep their knees together during voiding; the urine is trapped behind the labia and often leaks out after voiding, a cause of irritation in the genital area

Vaginitis - infection or inflammation in the vagina, most commonly due to chemical irritation, or bacterial infection, or both

Vesico-ureteral reflux - a problem where the ureter inserts into the bladder, when the bladder contracts the bladder muscle does not close the opening of the ureter into the bladder and the urine is propelled back up to the kidney, commonly associated with urge syndrome and dysfunctional voiding, a predisposing factor for kidney infection

Voiding - the process of emptying the bladder

Voiding cystourethrogram - a physically and emotionally uncomfortable x-ray that assesses the anatomy of the bladder and urethra and determines the presence or absence of vesico-ureteral reflux, a catheter is necessary for this procedure, should only be considered after careful consideration of the need for the study, and should only be performed in a children's hospital or other center with extensive experience with the procedure.

Voiding dysfunction - a generic term that refers to all causes of voiding problems, not a specific disease

Vulvitis - infection or inflammation of the vulva, most commonly due to chemical irritation, or bacterial infection, or both