Institute for Microbiology, Medical Faculty of Masaryk University and St. Anna Faculty Hospital in Brno

Agents of urinary tract infections

Urinary tract infections (UTIs)

Frequency of UTIs:

The 2nd most common infections (after respiratory ones)

In adults: the most common infections

Afflicting mainly females (because of shorter urethra)

Normal anatomy of the urinary tract Kidney Ureter Bladder Urethra

*ADAM.

Cystitis

- the most common UTI:
- develops ascendently caused by intestinal microflora
- symptoms:
 - dysuria (difficult urination with sharp and burning pain)
 - pollakisuria (urgent need to urinate accompanied by urination of a small amount of urine only)

Pyelonephritis

- more serious
- origin: ascendent or hematogenous
- symptoms:

fever, chills, flank pain, or costovertebral tenderness, urinary frequency, dysuria, hematuria

...urethritis – will be dealt with STD

Etiology of UTIs

Differs in:

- non-complicated UTIs
- infections accompanying structural abnormalities (prostatic hypertrophia, urinary stones, strictures, pregnancy, congenital defects, permanent catheters)
- infections accompanying functional disorders (vesicoureteral reflux, neurological disorders, diabetes mellitus)

Etiology of non-complicated UTIs

- 1. 80 % Escherichia coli
- 2. 10 % enterococci (Enterococcus faecalis)
- 3. 5 % Proteus mirabilis
 - other enterobacteria (Klebsiella pneumoniae, Kl. oxytoca, Ent. cloacae, C. freundii etc.)
 - Streptococcus agalactiae
 - coagulase neg. staphylococci
 - yeasts (mainly Candida albicans)







Etiology of complicated UTIs

circa 80 %: Escherichia coli
Klebsiella pneumoniae
Proteus mirabilis
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
enterococci

other enterobacteria acinetobacters other G-neg. non-fermenting rods candidae

Lege artis taking a urine sample

- Only after a thorough cleaning of genital incl. external orifficium of urethra by means of soap and water
- Take the middle stream of urine only
- Use a guaranteed sterile vessel
- Pour it into a sterile tube & stopper promptly
- If not possible to process it within 2 hours, place the specimen into 4 C for 18 hours at most

COUNTERTHINK



Semi-quantitative examination of the urine sample – I

We are interested

- not only in the kind of microbe present in the urine sample, but especially
- in the amount of the microbe

Why?

Because

- high numbers only stand for the UTI
- low numbers mean usually contamination acquired during urination

Semi-quantitative examination of the urine sample – II

Therefore, the urine is inoculated on culture media by a calibrated loop taking 1 µl of urine

In this case

1 colony means 10³ CFU/ml 10 colonies mean 10⁴ CFU/ml 100 colonies mean 10⁵ CFU/ml

(CFU = colony-forming unit = 1 cell)



Significant concentrations of bacteria in urine

Type of specimen, symptoms	Type of microbe	Significant number (CFU/ml)
Middle stream, symptoms present	Primary urine pathogen	10 ³
	Dubious urine pathogen	10 ⁵
Middle stream, no symptoms	Any	10 ⁵
Suprapubic punction	Any	10 ¹

Therapy

- Trimethoprim
- Nitrofurantoin
- Cephalexin
- Amoxicillin
- in complicated UTIs ATB sensitivity assessment
- ESBL strains

Paulus Peeter Rubens (1577-1640): Goddess of health Hygiene (1615)



Detail

Paulus Peeter Rubens (1577-1640): Goddess of health Hygiene (1615)

