The Urinary Bladder and Urethra

Urinary Bladder

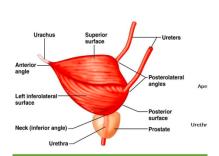
- The urinary bladder is a hollow viscus with strong muscular walls which acts as a reservoir for urine.
- Site of Urinary Bladder
 - o **In infants**: the bladder lies in the abdomen
 - At about 6 years of age: the bladder begins to enter the enlarging pelvis.
 - o **After puberty**: the bladder lies within the lesser pelvis.
 - o **In the adult**: an empty bladder lies in lesser pelvis and as it fills, it ascends to the greater pelvis.

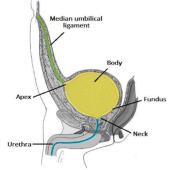
• Capacity of the Bladder:

- Average capacity of adult bladder is about 300 ml.
- Distension of the bladder by 500 ml may be tolerated. Beyond this, distension of the bladder is painful

o The bladder is enveloped in loose connective tissue called vesical fascia in which vesical

venous plexus is embedded.





Description and Relations of the Urinary Bladder :

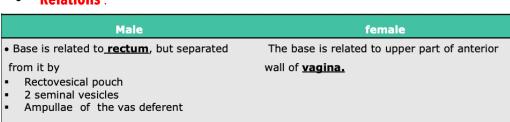
o The empty bladder has; Apex, base, 3 surfaces (superior, right and left inferolateral) and neck

1- Apex of the bladder:

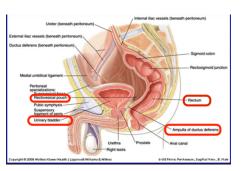
- Is continuous with the median umbilical ligament which raises the medianumbilical fold of peritoneum.
- The ligament is the remnant of the embryonic urachus.

2- Base of the bladder (fundus) :

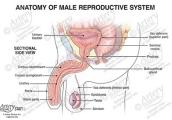
- It is directed posteroinferiorly
- Its superolateral angles receive the ureters
- Relations:



Base of Bladder in male









3-Superior Surface:

is covered by peritoneum and is related to

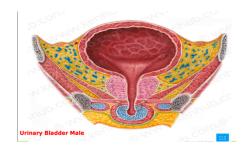
Male	female
Sigmoid colon,Loops if ileum	 Vesical surface of uterus. Supravaginal part of cervix with uterovesical pouch in between

4-Inferolateral surface:

- It is **not** covered by peritoneum. It is related to:
 - Body of pubis with retropubic pad of fat in the retropubic space of Retzius.
 - Levator ani.
 - Obturator internus.

5-Neck of the bladder:

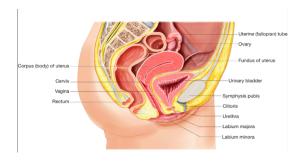
- It is the lowest and most fixed pan of the bladder.
- In the male:
 - it is continuous with the urethra at the internal ureteral meatus and rests on the upper surface of the prostate.
- In female:
 - it is continuous with the urethra and rests in the pelvic fascia which surrounds the urethra.
- At the junction of the neck and urethra, sphincter vesicae is present.

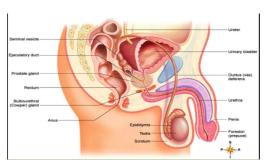




Muscular coat of the bladder

o is composed of smooth muscle and is arranged as three layers known as the detrusor muscle.





Peritoneal Covering of the Bladder :

- o In male, the superior surface and the superior part of its base is covered by peritoneum
- In females, only the superior surface is covered by peritoneum.
- The peritoneum leaving the bladder is loosely attached to the suprapubic part of abdominal wall.
- The distended bladder lifts this peritoneum from the abdominal wall.
- In case of suprapubic cystostomy instruments could be introduced into the distended bladder to avoid injury of the peritoneum

• The ligaments of the bladder:

1-Median umbilical ligament:

Continuous with apex of the bladder (it is the embryonic urachus)

2-Medial umbilical ligament:

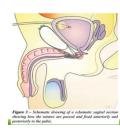
 Between superior surface of the bladder (it is the obliterated distal part of superior vesical artery)

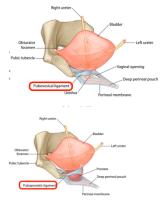
3-Puboprostatic and pubovesical ligaments:

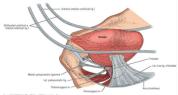
- In the **male**, the puboprostatic ligaments extend from back of the bodies of pubic bones to the anterior surface of the sheath of the prostate and neck of the bladder.
- In the **female**, the pubovesical ligaments extend from pubic bones to the urethra and neck of the bladder.

4-Lateral ligaments of the bladder:

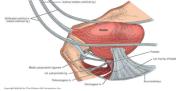
- Each extends laterally from the side of the base of the bladder across the pelvic floor to the tendinous arch in side wall of the pelvis.
- These ligaments enclose arteries and autonomic nerves of the bladder.
- 5-Posterior ligaments:







- Each extends backwards from the base of the bladder to the corresponding internal iliac vein.
- They enclose vesical veins in their way to the internal iliac vein



Supravesical fossa: Between median umbilical and medial umbilical folds

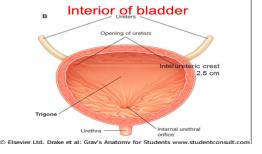
Medial Inguinal fossi

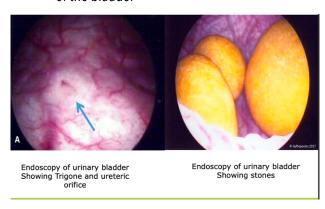
Interior of the Urinary Bladder:

- The mucous membrane over most of the bladder is loosely attached to the underlying muscular layer (detrusor muscle).
- The mucous membrane is folded in empty bladder, but in distended bladder, the folds disappear.

Trigone of the bladder:

- It is the small triangular area which lies between the orifices of the ureters and the internal urethral meatus. (it is mesodermal in origin).
- It has the following special features:
 - Its superior boundary is formed by the interureteric crest (ridge) which connects the two ureteric orifices.
 - Its mucous membrane is always smooth and firmly adherent to the underlying muscle.
 - It is very sensitive and vascular, so that, in cystoscope it appears red violet in colour
 - In the male, the trigone overlies the median lobe of the prostate.
 - After the middle age, the enlarged prostate elevates the mucous membrane behind the internal urethral orifice producing what is known as uvula vesicae of the bladder





Arterial Blood Supply:

- In the male: superior and inferior vesical arteries.
- In the female: superior vesical and vaginal arteries.

1)Superior Vesical A. (Obliterated Umbilical A.):

- It was the umbilical artery in the fetus
- Its proximal part is patent (= superior vesical A.)
- It gives branches to the bladder, ureter and vas deference (In male).
- Its distal part is fibrosed form medial umbilical ligament which form the medial the medial umbilical fold of peritoneum.

2) Inferior Vesical A. (Vaginal A. in the female):

- It supplies base of the urinary bladder, seminal vesicle, prostate and gives artery of the vas which runs in the spermatic cord and anastomoses with the testicular artery.
- In **female**: The vaginal A. supplies the base of the bladder and gives vaginal branches which anastomose with vaginal branches from uterine A.

• Venous Drainage:

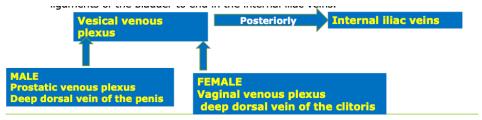
 Begins by the vesical venous plexus, embedded in the visceral fascia on the inferolateral surfaces of the bladder.

Inferiorly:

- In the male:
 - it communicates with the prostatic venous plexus. and receives the Deep dorsal vein of the penis
- In the female:
 - it communicates with the vaginal venous plexus and receives the deep dorsal vein of the clitoris.

o Posteriorly:

• the plexus is drained by numerous vesical veins which run in the posterior ligaments of the bladder to end in the internal iliac veins.

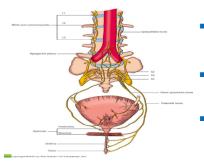


• Lymphatic Drainage:

- To internal and external iliac lymph nodes.
- From the bladder neck, lymphatics drain directly to the sacral lymph nodes.

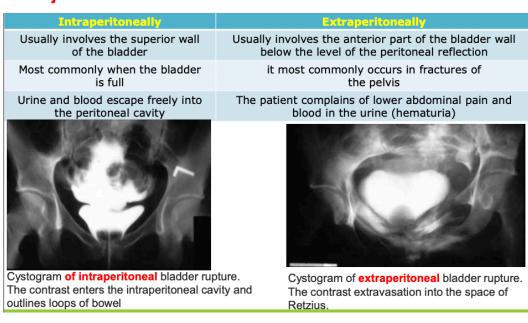
• Nerve Supply:

 By vesical nerve plexus, derived from the **inferior hypogastric plexus**, it contains t following fibers:



- **Parasympathetic efferents** (pelvic splanchnic nerves) (S₂, S₃, S₄): motor to the detrusor muscle, inhibitory to sphincter vesicae (they produce micturition).
- **Sympathetic efferents**: (L1 ,L2) are inhibitory to detrusor and stimulant to sphincter vesicae .
- **Sensory afferents**: Reach central nervous system through pelvic splanchnic nerves or Sympathetic fibers
 - It record bladder distension and pain sensation.

Bladder Injuries



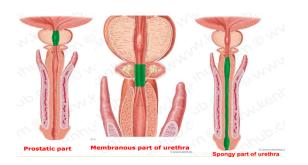
The Urethra

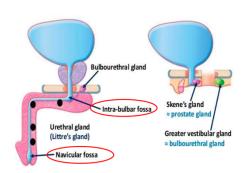
Male Urethra

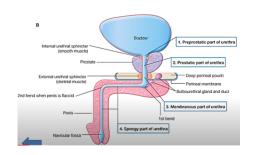
- The male urethra is about 20 cm long.
- It extends between 2 meatuses.
 - Internal urethral meatus: at its junction with the neck of the bladder
 - External urethral meatus: is a vertical slit, about 6 mm long.
 - It is the narrowest part of urethra, and a calculus may lodge there.
- It is divided into 4 parts: the first and the second parts are in the pelvis, the third and fourth parts are in the perineum.
- It has 2 sphincters:
 - **Internal urethral sphincter** (or sphincter vesicae), surrounds the neck of urinary bladder and the first (preprostatic) part of the urethra.
 - External urethral sphincter (or sphincter urethrae), surrounds the third (membranous) part of the urethra

Parts of the Urethra

	First part: pre-prostatic part	Second part: prostatic part	Third part : membranous part	Fourth : spongy part
Length	1-1.5 cm	3 cm	2 cm	15 cm
Site		traverses prostate from base to apex	runs in deep perineal pouch	bulb of penis and corpus spongiosum (Superficial Perineal Pouch)
Size		it is the widest part of urethra	it is the least dilatable part	
Special features	It is surrounded by internal sphincter	Urethral crest Seminal colliculus Prostatic sinuses	surrounded by external urethral sphincter	-Dilated at its beginning to form to form intrabulbar fossa and at termination in glans penis to form the navicular fossaThe bulbourethral glands open into its beginning







Special features of prostatic part of urethra

Urethral crest:

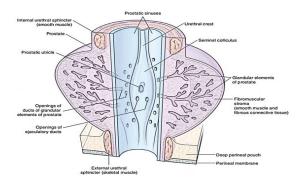
 is a median longitudinal elevation in the mucous membrane of its posterior wall.

Seminal colliculus (verumontanum):

- Is a prominence at the middle of the crest.
- It has three openings; the opening of the prostatic utricle in its middle, and the openings of the two ejaculatory ducts on the sides.

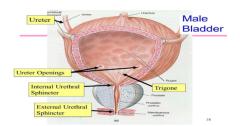
Prostatic sinuses :

- Each is a shallow depression on the side of the urethral crest.
- Each receives 15-20 prostatic ducts.



Sphincters of the Urethra

	Internal Urethral sphincter	External Urethral sphincter
Site	It lies in pelvis around neck of the bladder and pre-prostatic part of the urethra.	
Structures	It is formed of smooth muscle fibers	It is formed of striated muscle fibers
Nerve Supply	Autonomic fibers from the inferior hypogastric plexus	Somatic: from the perineal branch of pudendal nerve of the sacral plexus
Functions	 It acts Involuntarily. It is well-developed in both male and female. It maintains continence of urine. In the male: it has a genital function, it prevents reflux of semen into the urinary bladder during ejaculation 	 It acts voluntarily. It is well-developed in the male It maintains continence of urine.



Vessels Nerves and Lymphatics of the urethra :

Urethra receives its blood and nerve supply from those of prostate and penis.

Lymphatics:

- From the prostatic and membranous parts to internal and external iliac.
 lymph nodes
- From the spongy part to deep and superficial inguinal lymph nodes.

Urinary Retention

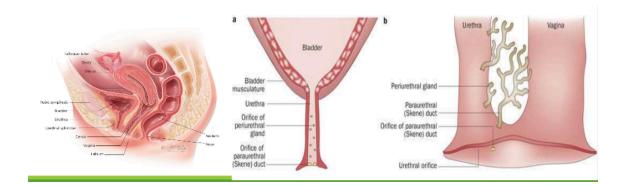
- o It is more common in male due to a benign or malignant enlargement of the prostate or acute urethritis or prostatitis.
- The only anatomic cause of urinary retention in females is acute inflammation around the urethra (e.g., from herpes).

• Female Urethra:

o length: 4 cm.

Course. Relations:

- It begins at the internal urethral meatus at the neck of the bladder.
- It traverses the deep perineal pouch to end at the external urethral orifice in the vestibule anterior to the vaginal orifice.
- It is embedded in the anterior wall of the vagina.
- On each side of the urethra, the mucous membrane of the urethra presents a number of small mucous glands called the paraurethral glands which correspond to the prostate in the male.



Clinically Significant Differences Between Male and Female Urethrae:

- The female urethra is distensible because it contains considerable elastic tissue, as well as smooth muscle.
- o It can be easily dilated without injury.
- o Infections of the urethra, and bladder, are more common in women because the female urethra is short, more distensible, and is open to the exterior.

