

## Hematuria

Hematuria is the presence of blood—specifically red blood cells—in urine. Hematuria can cause discoloration of urine that is visible to the naked eye (macroscopic hematuria) or only visible with a microscope (microscopic hematuria). The source of hematuria can be found anywhere in the urinary tract including kidneys, uterus, bladder, prostate gland and urethra. It may be accompanied by painful and/or frequent urination, back pain, nausea or fever.

### Common causes include:

- Stones in the kidneys or lower urinary tract
- Tumors or cancers throughout the urinary tract
- Non-infectious inflammation (particularly in the kidneys)

- Trauma or injury to the urinary tract
- Obstruction of the urinary tract

### Less common causes include:

- Blood vessel malformations
- Bleeding disorders

The amount of blood in the urine is unrelated to the seriousness of hematuria's natural cause. Even when caused by serious diseases, hematuria is usually highly intermittent.

Blood in urine, even if only one time, is not normal and a physician should be notified. A urinalysis may be required to tell if there is blood in the urine (microscopically). Blood, urine and X-ray tests (CT scan or X-ray of the kidneys) will show if a referral to a urologist is needed. The urologist will conduct other procedures to evaluate the source of the hematuria.

Establishing a diagnosis is important. Many causes of hematuria are not serious and treatment may not be needed. However, other causes may be severe and require immediate attention.

**For more information on hematuria, please visit our website, [urology.urmc.edu](http://urology.urmc.edu), or talk to your physician about a referral.**

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