



Are there non-UTI localizing infectious symptoms?



***Pearl: CA-UTI is defined as the presence of a urinary catheter within past 48 hours of symptom onset, presence of signs or symptoms compatible with UTI, absence of other infectious source, and significant bacteriuria with one or more species.***

The diagnosis of a CA-UTI requires the absence of other identified sources of infection.

Consider CNS, respiratory, GI, skin and soft tissue, and other infections

[Click for more on evaluating on urinary tract localizing symptoms](#)

Are there infectious symptoms localizing to the urinary tract?

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Localizing:

- Flank pain (between epigastrium and back)
- Costovertebral tenderness
- Hematuria
- Pelvic discomfort
- Suprapubic pain/tenderness

If bladder catheter recently removed/absent:

- Dysuria
- Urgency
- Frequency

If spinal cord injury:

- Increased spasticity
- Autonomic dysreflexia
- Sense of unease

Constitutional (may be attributable if no other etiology is found):

- Fever
- Rigors
- Malaise
- Lethargy

**Dark/cloudy/foul smelling urine and nonspecific symptoms (confusion, falls, behavioral changes) ARE NOT symptoms of a UTI in the absence of localizing signs to the urinary tract**

[Click for more on localizing signs/symptoms to the urinary tract in CA-UTI](#)

***Pearl: The presence of high-risk features serve to lower the treatment threshold for CA-UTI.***

**High risk features:**

- Fever lasting 24 hours or more
- Rigors or shaking chills
- Clear cut delirium (not just change in mental status) after ruling out other causes - please see [Delirium Guide](#)

[Click for more about red flags in CA-UTI evaluation](#)

Are there high-risk features?

Obtain urine specimen and determine if catheter can be removed

***PEARL – collect culture before starting antibiotics due to wide range of pathogens and increased likelihood of resistance with CA-UTI*** ✕

This is an ideal time to assess if a urinary catheter is still required; removing the catheter is the best way to prevent CA-UTI

**If catheter NOT required:**

- Obtain a midstream/clean catch urine specimen
- If unable get midstream/clean catch due to mentation
  - Men: consider a condom catheter for 30 – 120 minutes or in and out catheterization
  - Women: Consider in and out catheterization

**If catheter IS required:**

- Placed <2 weeks: the decision to obtain from sampling port vs placing a new catheter should be made on a case-by-case basis viewing the risks and benefits
- Placed >2 weeks: replace catheter first and then obtain urine specimen

[Click for more collecting a urine sample in CA-UTI](#)

**CA-UTI empirically diagnosed**

- Review prior sensitivities for empiric antibiotics or local antibiogram
- Start [antibiotics using selection guide](#)

***PEARL: CA-UTI is defined as the presence of a urinary catheter for >48 hours, presence of signs or symptoms compatible with UTI, absence of other infectious source, and significant bacteriuria with one or more species***

1. Determine if prostatitis/GU infection in men
2. Encourage hydration
3. Review prior sensitivities for empiric antibiotics or local antibiogram
4. Start [antibiotics using selection guide](#)

[Click for more on the empiric diagnosis of CA-UTI](#)



**PEARL: “Significant” bacteriuria varies and is arbitrarily used to suggest the bacterial growth is not a result of contamination. A higher cutoff makes it less likely to be the result of contamination.**

Per 2009 IDSA CA-UTI guidelines, “a quantitative count of greater than or equal to 1,000 colony forming units for symptomatic persons... is recommended as representing significant bacteriuria, because this threshold is a reasonable compromise between sensitivity in detecting CA-UTI and feasibility for the microbiology laboratory [minimum detection] in quantifying organisms.”

**Note: A polymicrobial infection (1+ organisms) is expected in CA-UTI**

Does the urine culture show bacteria?

**The diagnosis is now confirmed!**



**Monitoring**

- Patients should improve within 48-72 hours. Failure to improve should prompt evaluation for complicating factors and imaging (such as CT A/P or renal US)
- Deescalate/narrow antibiotics as able based on clinical status and susceptibilities

**Prophylaxis**

- Best prophylaxis is to remove urinary catheter if possible

*[Click for more for CA-UTI diagnosis, monitoring, and prophylaxis](#)*

**CA-UTI diagnosis confirmed. Monitor for resolution, review prophylaxis recommendations**



**PEARL – 100% of patients with indwelling catheters for >30 days will be colonized and bacteriuric. This does not indicate a UTI and often is due to asymptomatic bacteriuria**



**Evaluate for non-UTI infection**

- Evaluate other causes of localizing symptoms
- *Do not start antibiotics for urinary tract*
- Reconsider UTI diagnosis if:
  - new symptoms arise
  - existing symptoms do not resolve
  - no other etiology for symptoms is found after comprehensive evaluation
- If in hospital or long-term care, implement **active monitoring**:
  - vital sign monitoring, paying attention to hydration status, and repeated physical exam

[Click for more on evaluating non-UTI etiologies](#)

**Evaluate for non-UTI infection**

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- Do not start antibiotics for urinary tract