

Bacteriuria is a medical term that refers to the presence of bacteria in the urine. In most cases, the presence of some bacteria in the urine is considered normal, as the urinary tract has natural defense mechanisms that help prevent infections. However, when the bacterial count in the urine becomes abnormally high, it may indicate an infection.

There are two main types of bacteriuria:

Asymptomatic Bacteriuria (ASB): In this condition, bacteria are present in the urine, but the individual does not show any signs or symptoms of a [urinary tract infection \(UTI\)](#). Asymptomatic bacteriuria is commonly seen in certain populations, such as pregnant women and the elderly. It is generally not treated with antibiotics unless the person falls into specific high-risk categories, such as pregnant women.

Symptomatic Bacteriuria: This occurs when bacteria are present in the urine, and the individual experiences symptoms of a urinary tract infection. Symptoms may include pain or burning during urination, increased frequency of urination, lower abdominal pain, and cloudy or foul-smelling urine.

Common causes of bacteriuria include:

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs): Infections can occur in any part of the urinary tract, including the bladder (cystitis), urethra (urethritis), and kidneys (pyelonephritis).

Catheter-Associated Bacteriuria: Individuals with urinary catheters are at an increased risk of developing bacteriuria.

Structural Abnormalities: Anatomical issues in the urinary tract, such as kidney stones or urinary retention, can contribute to the development of bacteriuria.

Sexual Activity: In some cases, sexual activity can introduce bacteria into the urinary tract.

If symptomatic bacteriuria is suspected, healthcare providers may conduct a urine culture to identify the specific bacteria causing the infection and determine the most effective antibiotic for treatment. It's important to note that inappropriate use of antibiotics can contribute to antibiotic resistance, so antibiotic treatment should be based on the specific bacteria and its susceptibility to medications.

If you suspect you have a urinary tract infection or are experiencing symptoms related to bacteriuria, it's advisable to consult with a healthcare professional for proper diagnosis and treatment.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:55**

