

Urinary retention

Urinary retention, also known as ischuria, is an inability to completely empty the bladder. It is a common complication of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

[Cauda equina syndrome](#) usually produces [urinary retention](#), although sometimes [urinary incontinence](#) may occur (some cases are overflow incontinence).

Elevated [Postvoid residual volume](#) can be indicative of several conditions, including [urinary retention](#), [neurogenic bladder](#) dysfunction, bladder outlet obstruction (such as in benign prostatic hyperplasia in men), [urinary tract infections](#), and other urinary tract issues.

Etiology

Etiologies of urinary retention:

1. bladder outlet obstruction (a brief differential diagnosis list is presented here)

a) urethral stricture:retention tends to be progressive over time

b) prostatic enlargement in males:

- benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) & prostate cancer: retention tends to be progressive over time

- acute prostatitis: onset of retention may be sudden

c) women: bladder or vaginal prolapse which can produce a urethral kink

d) obstructing thrombus from hematuria(clot retention)

e) bladder calculi

f) bladder or urethral foreign bodies

g) urethral cancer:rare

2. detrusor areflexia or hypotonia

a) spinal cord lesion

- trauma

- tumor

- myelomeningocele

b) [cauda equina syndrome](#)

- c) medications: anticholinergics, narcotics
 - d) diabetes mellitus (autonomic neuropathy)
 - e) herpes zoster at the level of the sacral dorsal root ganglia
3. [Postoperative urinary retention](#)

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