

Symptom-Free Pee: LET IT BE

Diagnosis of Suspected Urinary tract Infection (UTI) in Non-Catheterized Elderly Patients in Acute Care Setting

PRACTICE POINTS:

- UTI is a clinical diagnosis, not a laboratory diagnosis
- Dipsticks not recommended - poor diagnostic accuracy
- Urinalysis:
 - Presence of bacteria/nitrites and/or WBC not diagnostic of UTI as common finding in the elderly
 - Absence of WBCs in urine rules out UTI
- Do not start antibiotics before urine sample collected
- ≥ 3 organisms typically implies contamination

TYPICAL URINARY TRACT INFECTION SIGNS/SYMPTOMS:

- Acute dysuria and/or
- 2 or more of the following:
 - Fever
 - New urgency (or marked increase)
 - New frequency (or marked increase)
 - Suprapubic/flank pain
 - New urinary incontinence
 - Gross hematuria

