

**Okeke Nduadina**

## **Urethra. Urethral medical problems**

**Kharkiv national medical university, human anatomy department**

**Scientific leader- Polyakova A., PhD**

In anatomy, the urethra is a tube that connects the urinary bladder to the outside of the body. In males, the urethra is the conduit for semen during sexual intercourse. It also serves as a passage for urine to flow. In females, the urethra is shorter and emerges above the vaginal opening. The external urethral sphincter is a striated muscle that allows voluntary control over urination.

The female urethra is about 4 cm in length. There is inadequate data for the typical length of the male urethra, however a study of 109 men showed an average length of 22.3 cm (SD = 2.4 cm), ranging from 15 cm to 29 cm. Medical problems of the urethra. Infection of the urethra is urethritis, said to be more common in females than males. Urethritis is a common cause of dysuria (pain when urinating). Related to urethritis is so called urethral syndrome. Passage of kidney stones through the urethra can be painful, which can lead to urethral strictures. Cancer of the urethra.

What is urethritis? It is inflammation of the urethra. The main symptom is dysuria, which is painful or difficult urination. Urethritis: gonococcal or non-gonococcal, associated with prostatitis and cystitis. The diagnosis of urethritis. Usually, the patient undresses and puts on a gown. The physician examines the penis and testicles for soreness or any swelling. The urethra is visually examined by spreading the urinary meatus apart with two gloved fingers, and examining the opening for redness, discharge and other abnormalities. Next, a cotton swab is inserted 1–4 cm into the urethra and rotated once. To prevent contamination, no lubricant is applied to the swab, causing the procedure to be extremely painful. The swab is then smeared onto a glass slide and examined under a microscope. The physician sometimes performs a digital rectal exam (DRE) to inspect the prostate gland for swelling or infection. The symptoms of urethritis. Discharge (milky or pus-like) from the penis, stinging or burning during urination, itching, tingling, burning or irritation inside the penis.

Prevention of urethritis. Make the necessary isolation in family, towels, bath, washbasin, toilet, etc. used separately, or sterilized after use. Tell the patient what is safe sex, what is risky sexual behaviors, how to avoid risky sexual behaviors. Encourage the use of condoms, even proper perineal hygiene should be stressed. This includes avoiding use of vaginal deodorant sprays and proper wiping after urination and bowel movements. Intercourse should be avoided until symptoms subside.