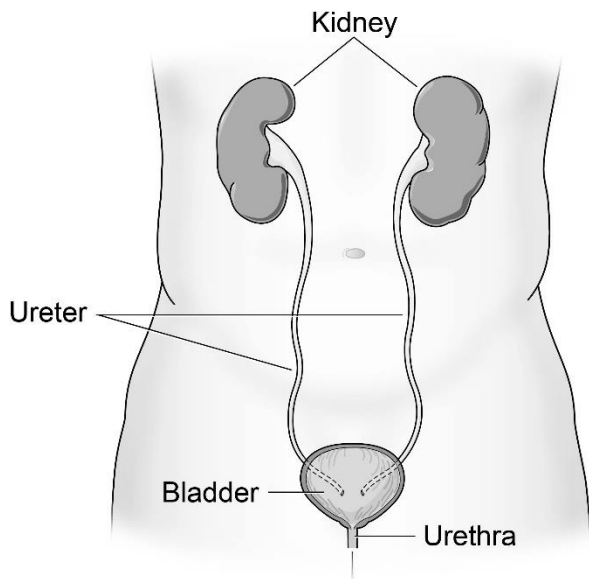


Hydronephrosis

Hydronephrosis is when your kidney dilates or “stretches” where urine collects. It may occur in one or both kidneys. This may be caused by a blockage vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) or for no clear reason. This blockage occurs somewhere along the urinary system. The blockage causes the urine to become trapped causing the kidney to dilate. Many times, children who have hydronephrosis are born with it and we don’t know why. Often there are no symptoms and it is found by an ultrasound.



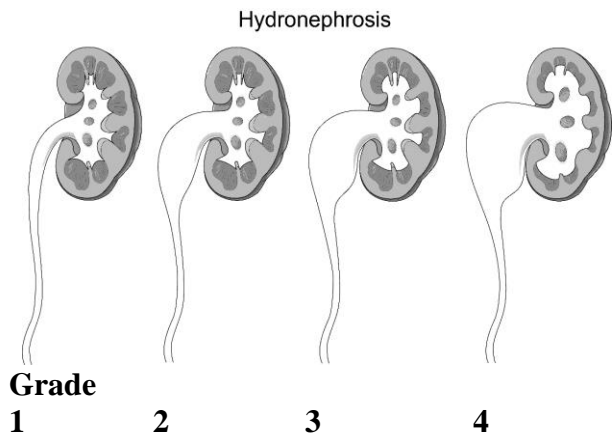
Hydronephrosis is graded on a 0-4 scale. The grade depends on the amount of dilation, number of calyces seen (small collecting cups within the kidney) and if the kidney tissue is getting thin and how severe it is. This is seen by an ultrasound image.

Grade 1: Mild or dilation of the renal pelvis (where urine collects and drains to the bladder) only.

Grade 2: Moderate dilatation of renal pelvis. A few calyces.

Grade 3: Dilatation of the renal pelvis. All the calyces are dilated. Normal kidney tissue.

Grade 4: Dilatation of the renal pelvis. Can see all the calyces. Kidney tissue is thin.



Diagnosis

It is diagnosed by ultrasound. It may also be found with other image testing. Some patients with a severe blockage may have kidney pain, vomiting and have urinary tract infections.

Treatment

We will closely watch your child’s kidneys using ultrasound. How often your child has ultrasounds will depend on a few factors. Your provider may order further tests. This may include a voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) or kidney scans. If your child’s hydronephrosis is caused by a blockage, your child may need surgery. This will be discussed with you by your provider.

Who to Call

Pediatric Urology Clinic

(608) 263-6420 or 1-800-323-8942

After hours, the clinic number will be answered by the paging operator. Ask for the pediatric urology resident on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 3/2020 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7767