



Effective Health Care

Urinary Retention

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Urinary retention will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Health care professional association

Nomination Summary: The nominator has a broad interest in the etiology, natural history, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of urinary retention (both acute and chronic) in adult men and women.

Staff-Generated PICO- Diagnosis of urinary retention

Population(s): Patients presenting with symptoms of urinary retention

Intervention(s): Physical examination

Comparator(s): Physical examination with added diagnostic techniques (urine analysis, bladder ultrasound, cystoscopy, x-ray, computed tomography scan, prostate-specific antigen measurement, urodynamic tests)

Outcome(s): Diagnostic accuracy, outcomes of patient management decisions, radiation exposure

Staff-Generated PICO- Treatment of acute urinary retention

Population(s): Patients presenting with acute urinary retention

Intervention(s): Catheterization

Comparator(s): Different catheter types, use of adjuvant pharmacologic agent, different catheter management policies

Outcome(s): Reduction in patient symptoms, prevention of recatheterization, prevention of urinary tract infections, improved quality of life, potential harms (infection, renal failure, upper urinary tract deterioration, urosepsis, hematuria, hypotension, postobstructive diuresis, sepsis, trauma, urinary stones, urethral strictures or erosions, prostatitis, squamous cell carcinoma, postoperative bleeding, mortality)

Staff-Generated PICO- Treatment of chronic urinary retention

Population(s): Patients with chronic urinary retention

Intervention(s): Catheterization, surgical treatment, pharmacologic agents

Comparator(s): Comparison between individual interventions or combinations of interventions

Outcome(s): Improvement in patient symptoms, prevention of urinary tract complications, improved quality of life

**Key Questions
from Nominator:**

1. What is the etiology of acute and chronic urinary retention in adults?
2. How do we define urinary retention (base case), including those with known neurologic problems? (i.e., What is considered abnormal PVR)?
3. What are the natural history and consequences of urinary retention?
4. Who is at risk for urinary retention and who should get screened?
5. What should the diagnostic workup for identification of urinary retention include?
6. What are the effective treatment/management options for urinary retention?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- No systematic reviews were identified that address the full scope of this nomination. Because of the high prevalence of urinary retention and the lack of evidence-based guidelines addressing the full scope of this nomination, it appears that a review on this topic would have significant impact.