

# Urinary Tract Infections in Pregnant Women. New Opportunities Anti-Relapse Therapy

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## Abstract

Infectious processes of the urinary tract are a group of diseases often encountered in clinical practice. In particular this applies to pregnant women in early pregnancy who develop functional changes in the urinary tract. The most common pathological condition during pregnancy is asymptomatic bacteriuria.

For antibacterial drugs, prescribed on the late stages with no consideration of causative agents' sensitivity, or inadequate therapeutic doses ascending infection leading to the development of gestational pyelonephritis and other complications of pregnancy may develop. For best preventive treatment the use of antibiotic therapy, prophylactics like cranberry extract containing proanthocyanidin A or other demonstrably effective herbal based drugs, is recommended. As for the medical check-up for this group of patients, it goes without saying that it is obligatory.

**Keywords:** urinary tract infection, pregnancy, asymptomatic bacteriuria, gestational pyelonephritis, cranberry extract, proanthocyanidin.

## Introduction

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are widely common pathological condition (primarily this problem concerns pregnant women), often diagnosed by obstetricians-gynecologists.

Physiological pregnancy is characterized by different to a certain degree, functional changes in the MEP are disturbed decrease in tone and contractile activity of the muscles of small parts necks, pelvis, ureters, their expansion.

These changes occur in early pregnancy (6-8 weeks), reach a maximum at 18-20 weeks and increase the risk of developing infectious diseases. If in early pregnancy the main

cause of dilatation of the pelvis and ureters is hormonal factor, further joins and mechanical factor, which can lead to the formation of pyeloectasia, the occurrence of vesicoureteral reflux, creating conditions for the development of ascending general infectious and inflammatory process [1-3].

The most common pathological condition during pregnancy is asymptomatic bacteriuria, which occurs in 2-8% of women (the peak incidence is runs on the 9th-17th week), as a rule, is detected when scheduled examination [4]. At the same time, urinary infection of the exit pathways is evidenced by the detection in the middle portion of urine more than 6-8 leukocytes in the field of view.

## Pathogens

The main causative agent of infectious processes urinary system is *Escherichia coli* -60-90% (according to A. Moges et al., 2002). Besides, in the urine of patients, *Klebsiella*, enterococcus, *Staphylococcus aureus* and other microorganisms<sup>[5, 6]</sup>.

## Diagnostics

For the diagnosis of asymptomatic bacteriuria in addition to a general urinalysis, it is recommended to conduct two consecutive studies of this material culture method with urine collection by a catheter.

The presence of the disease is evidenced by the detection of more than 10<sup>5</sup> CFU in 1 ml of urine, while identification of microorganisms, definition of feeling resistance of microbial flora to antibiotics and antibacterial drugs. In clinical practice, treatment often starts with a single detection of 10<sup>5</sup> CFU / ml and more than 1 ml of urine<sup>[7]</sup>, especially when it is neutralities

## Therapeutic possibilities

Treatment includes a course of antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, phyto-, physiotherapy. From antibacterial preparations can be used penicillins (amoxicillin / clavulanate at a dose of 500 mg 2 times a day for 3-7 days) and cephalosporins (cefixime 400 mg once a day - 5-7 days, ceftriaxone 1000 mg 1 time per day for 3-5 days). It should be remembered that the use of nitrofurantoin preparations in pregnant women is limited due to the risk of developing anemia in mother and fetus<sup>[8]</sup>.

Fosfomycin is considered safe for use in time of pregnancy with the drug<sup>[9]</sup> and, according to A. Estebanez et al. (2009), is as effective as ampicillin / clavulanate, but easier to administer (3000 mg) once in the treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria and cystitis<sup>[10]</sup>. But given that fosfomycin cannot penetrate deeply into the urothelium, its application is limited and shown only in the initial stages of process and early initiation of treatment

Antibacterial therapy for asymptomatic heavy bacteriuria leads to a significant decrease in frequency of gestational pyelonephritis<sup>[11]</sup>. If therapy was not carried out, or antibacterial drugs were prescribed without taking into account the sensitivity of the pathogen, or used in insufficient therapeutic

doses, 30-40% of pregnant women may develop an ascending infection leading to the development of gestational pyelonephritis.

At the same time, about 53% of cases of acute pyelonephritis occur in the second trimester, 26% in the third<sup>[12]</sup>.

The course of acute pyelonephritis is characterized by an increase in temperature up to 38°C, dysuric manifestations, pain in the lumbar region, weakness.

Treatment of acute gestational pyelonephritis should be carried out in a hospital setting.

When intoxicated, caused by the inflammatory process, is shown des-intoxication, desensitizing, antispasmodic therapy. Antibacterial therapy should be prescribed taking into account the sensitivity of microorganisms

More effective is intravenous administration of antimicrobials.

For the treatment of can be assigned a combination of ampicillin + gentamicin, as well as cefazolin + ceftriaxone, which have approximately equivalent efficiency in relation to microorganisms that cause pyelonephritis<sup>[13]</sup>.

As in the treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria, for treatment of pyelonephritis is currently preferred is the appointment of  $\beta$ -lactams, since the resistant *E. coli* resistance to these drugs, according to A. Artero (2013), the lowest<sup>[14]</sup>.

At the same time, E. Sabharwal (2012) made the opposite conclusion: the resistance of *E. coli* and other microorganisms to ampicillin - 90%, amoxicillin / clavulanate (Augmentin) - 78%, ceftriaxone - 35%<sup>[15]</sup>.

In this regard, in the conditions of increasing resistance of uropathic genes to most antibacterial drugs the role of third-generation cephalosporins in the treatment of non-complicated urinary tract infection.

Distinguish a characteristic feature of this group of antibiotics is the high activity against microorganisms of the family Enterobacteriaceae,  $\beta$ -lactamase resistance, long half-life, which allows the appointment to start these drugs 1-2 times a day<sup>[16, 17]</sup>.

American scientists conducted a comparative new multicenter study of the effectiveness of cephalosporin III generation cefixime and amoxicillin with

participation of 565 adult patients suffering from uncomplicated uncommon urinary tract infections.

## Clinical

The effectiveness of cefixime was 90%, amoxicillina - 83%, eradication of uropathogens was observed in 92% patients treated with cefixime, and in 84% of patients taking amoxicillin [18].

Nevertheless, in the research vaniyah A. Alemu et al. (2012) multiple drug vein resistance of microorganisms was revealed in 95% of urine samples collected from pregnant women with infectious MVPs [19].

An increase in the resistance of microorganisms is noted found in the results of many studies [20], more and more antibiotics become ineffective, so search for new approaches to the treatment of infectious processes.

During an exacerbation of the process in the intervals between antibiotic therapy themselves, as well as for prophylaxis of exacerbation of chronic inflammatory processes urinary system should be recommended for change of herbal diuretics, antiseptics and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Active components of medicinal plants, used to treat diseases of the urinary tract and kidneys (goldcentaury, lovage, rosemary, madder, stalk bicarp, reed saxifrage, herbs bearberry, sage, wild rose, St. John's wort, horsetail field-vogo, etc.), contribute to the removal of harmful substances from the body.

substances, have antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antiallergic, diuretic action.

Since ancient times, for the treatment of diseases of the kidneys, urinary tract zyrya, cranberries were also used [21].

The berries of this plant contain organic acids (including salicylate), fructose, vitamins C, A, K, E and group B, flavonoids, an-tocyanidins, catechins and triterpenoids. Anthocyanins and proanthocyanidins, which are part of the plant, are natural antibiotics [22].

Their mechanism of action is to inhibit bacterial adhesion, including *E. coli*, on urothelial cells, which facilitates the removal of microorganisms from the urinary tract. anti-adhesive effect of proanthocyanidins is dose-dependent and significant, which has been confirmed by numerous experiments and clinical studies [23, 24].

Except in addition, the substances that are contained in cranberry juice, changing composition of urine, do not allow pathogens to develop in it bacteria.

For an antibacterial effect recommended 2-3-fold intake of cranberry natural juice daily [25], but this treatment may have no adverse events, the most frequent of which are belching, nausea, heartburn, rapid stools, headaches, elevated blood glucose and skin reactions, so the use of cranberry extract in capsules instead of using the whole fruit last time is considered more promising [26, 27].

Zhuravit is a fruit extract large-fruited cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), containing 220 mg of the active substance, which corresponds to 5500 mg of fresh cranberries. In addition to antibacterial, cranberry extract (Zhuravit) has a pronounced significant antioxidant effect, which was confirmed in the studies of D. Wojnicz et al. (2012), and recommended to use the drug for the prevention and treatment of urinary tract infections, including chronic and recurrent processes [28].

In a previous comparative study on study of the effectiveness of cranberry extract and trimethoprim-priming in women with recurrent urinary tract infections

M. McMurdo (2009) shows the same efficiency but with fewer side effects in women who took cranberry extract for treatment [29], which once again confirms the feasibility and safety of the use of herbal preparations.

Recommended doses of Zhuravit - 1 capsule 3 times a day for 3 days, then 1 capsule 1 time per day, long-term the duration of treatment is 2-4 weeks. This mode of reception is convenient and not burdensome for patients and promotes adherence to therapy. Cranberry extract (Zhuravit) can be used for the following diseases of the urinary tract: cystitis, asymptomatic heavy bacteriuria, pyelonephritis, as an additional means of treatment in complex therapy, and for pro-lactation of the development of an ascending infection or other complications.

## Conclusion

Given the high incidence of UTIs during pregnancy, it is extremely important to prevent this pathology. Some clinicians consider it justified the appointment of preventive courses of antibiotic therapy (1-3 days), other contested.

Consider the feasibility of such an approach, taking into account the correlation risk and benefit of this therapy for the mother and fetus.

Moreover, frequent, short-term prescription of antibacterialtherapeutic drugs contributes to the development of resistantmicroorganisms, the occurrence of allergies,immunity, development of dysbacteriosis, etc.

Exactly. Therefore, in order to prevent exacerbation of chronicpyelonephritis, cystitis, widespread use is recommendedherbal preparations.

### Practical Recommendations

Thus, an essential place in the complex of professionallactic measures aimed at preventingprevention of recurrence of urinary tract infections, takes the use of temporary phytopreparations, including those based oncranberry ducts. It is also mandatory to comply personal hygiene, regimen, diet with the exception of acute, Lena food, physiotherapy exercises.

Each woman-during the entire pregnancy should be understrict supervision of an obstetrician-gynecologist, especiallyespecially at critical times (22–28 weeks),

when most oftenmanifested pyelonephritis of pregnant women. Patients giving kidney disease, require dispensaryobservation at the therapist of the antenatal clinic, systematicmedical examination, which contributes to the early detection reduction of asymptomatic bacteriuria, prevention of complicationsand timely initiation of treatment. Women who haveof which infectious diseases were detected during pregnancyand inflammatory diseases of the urinary tract, proteinuria, hematoma, pyuria, increased blood pressure, edema, andwho also had late toxicosis during the previousduring pregnancies, a thorough examination and observation during all subsequent pregnancies withmandatory therapeutic and prophylacticsky events.

Wider dissemination and implementation in routinecurrent clinical practice of complementary and alternativetherapy is an effective method of reducing the diseaseincidence of inflammatory diseases of the urinary tract during pregnancy.

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