

DEFINITION

1. **Genito-urinary tuberculosis** results from the spread of tubercle bacilli by the blood stream from a primary source of infection elsewhere in the body, most frequently the lungs. It is sometimes impossible to find the primary source of infection.
2. Tuberculosis of the female genital organs is less commonly associated with renal tuberculosis than is that of the male genital organs. The usual sites of disease in the female are the Fallopian tubes and the endometrium.
3. Genito-urinary tuberculosis may be a part of generalised miliary tuberculosis.

CLINICAL FEATURES

4. **Renal tuberculosis** may present with generalised vague illness, such as weight loss and fever. More commonly it presents with local symptoms, especially frequency, dysuria or haematuria. Other symptoms include ureteric colic, loin pain and backache.
5. **Tuberculosis of the male genital organs** may present with scrotal pain and swelling or with the formation of sinuses.
6. Infertility is usually the only symptom of **tuberculosis of the female genital organs**. Other symptoms include pelvic pain, menstrual disorders, dyspareunia and vaginal discharge. Rarely, the disease may spread to the peritoneum, leading to peritonitis and pelvic abscess.

AETIOLOGY

7. **Genito-urinary tuberculosis** results from infection by tubercle bacilli reaching and lodging in the genito-urinary tract. There is always a primary focus elsewhere in the body but this is not necessarily identifiable in an individual case.

REFERENCES

Citron K M and Girling D J. Tuberculosis. Genitourinary tuberculosis. In: (Eds) Weatherall D J, Ledingham J G G and Warrell D A. Oxford Textbook of Medicine. 2nd Ed. 1987. Oxford. Oxford University Press. p5.290-5.291.

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