

DEFINITION

1. This is a narrowing of the urethra.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. It causes difficulty with micturition. The urinary stream becomes progressively narrower, micturition is prolonged and this may be followed by dribbling, which may also be prolonged. Increasing frequency of micturition may occur, due to incomplete emptying of the bladder or urinary infection, or both.
3. The complications include retention of urine, urethral diverticulum, periurethral abscess, urethral fistula and back-pressure effects on the urinary tract, possibly leading ultimately to hydronephrosis, increased susceptibility to urinary infection and urinary calculi. Straining at micturition may lead to hernia, haemorrhoids or rectal prolapse.

AETIOLOGY

4. It may be **congenital**, but this is rare.
5. **Trauma** to the perineum.
6. **Inflammatory** due to infections of the urethra.
7. **Instrumental** due to an indwelling catheter or following the passage of a large calibre endoscope.
8. **Postoperative**, following prostatectomy or amputation of the penis.

CONCLUSION

9. Urethral stricture is a narrowing of the urethra due to a variety of causes which are listed above.

REFERENCE

Mann C V and Russell R C G (Eds). Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery. 21st Ed. 1992. London. Chapman & Hall Medical. p1455-1460.

30th December 1992