

Urinary Tract Infection

FACT or *Fiction*

The goal of UTI treatment is to eradicate all bacteria from the urinary tract.

Fiction

Most individuals that have indwelling urinary catheters for longer than 7 days will develop bacteriuria. The presence of bacteriuria alone is not enough to indicate treatment. The goal of UTI treatment is to alleviate systemic or local symptoms.

FACT

Individuals with long-term (greater than 2 to 4 weeks) indwelling urinary catheters are at an increased risk for developing symptomatic urinary tract infections, bacteremia, and urosepsis.

The risk of developing bacteremia is 40 times greater for those with long-term indwelling urinary catheters.

Catheter Associate Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) cannot be prevented.

Fiction

There are several precautions that can be taken to prevent CAUTIs including:

- Re-assessing need of urinary drainage device
- Maintaining proper hand hygiene before touching catheter
- Maintaining that the drainage bag is always below the level of the bladder
- Avoiding pulling, tugging, or twisting of the catheter tubing