

BLADDER, URETHRA, PELVIC PAIN? FREQUENT URINATION?

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The following explanation regarding Interstitial Cystitis and Painful Bladder Syndrome is found at:

<http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/kudiseases/pubs/interstitialcystitis/> or if too long to open, try <http://tinyurl.com/227q6>.

“Interstitial cystitis (IC) is a condition that results in recurring discomfort or pain in the bladder and the surrounding pelvic region. Painful bladder syndrome (PBS) is used to describe cases with painful urinary symptoms that may not meet the strictest definition of IC. The term IC/PBS includes all cases of urinary pain that can’t be attributed to other causes, such as infection or urinary stones.

Symptoms may include an urgent need to urinate, a frequent need to urinate, or a combination of these symptoms. Pain may change in intensity as the bladder fills with urine or as it empties.”

Patients experiencing the several effects of IC and PBS should bring this problem to the attention of their physician for a cystoscopy to check the urethra and bladder. Bladder stones are also known to be present in some people that can bring about discomforting pain. A patient reported experiencing long time pain following radiation and ultimately found that a bladder stone had developed, according to him, from prior radiation for prostate cancer. He reported that he ended up with a female physician who said that this pain is present with many women under similar circumstances and she prescribed Neurontin (gabapentin), an anti-epileptic drug that has about 80% of its scripts written for off-label reasons. It is also used to treat pain issues and did work for this patient when an earlier medication, Elmiron (pentosan polysulfate sodium) an interstitial cystitis medication approved by the FDA for relief of bladder pain, failed to help.

In any event, it is important to bring the foregoing symptoms to the attention of a Urologist.