

The Excretory Sy

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Elimination of Waste

What is Excretion?

- During our everyday activities we produce a lot of waste.
- This build up of waste is toxic in our bodies and must be eliminated somehow...
- Excretion is the process of eliminating these waste products from our bodies.



4 Systems used for Elimination

- Integumentary: Sweat Glands in Skin
- Respiratory: Lungs
- Digestive: Intestines
- Urinary: Kidneys



Sweat Glands

- About 2 500 000 found in the body
- They discharge secretions (sweat) by pores
- Sweating/perspiration helps control our body temperature.
- Our sweat is made up of water and other waste materials that are from our blood.



• This is why it plays an important role in the excretory system



Respiratory System (Lungs)

- Microscopic structures in lungs called alveoli are the sites of gas exchange
- Capillaries surround alveoli and bring blood close for the oxygen and carbon dioxide to move by diffusion



Digestive System (Large Intestines)

- About **5** feet in length
- Tube –like structure used to pass solid material
- Eliminates solid waste that come from undigested (indigestible) food



The Urinary System

- Composed of the following:
- Kidneys
- Ureters
- Bladder
- Urethra



<u>Kidneys</u>

- Two reddish beanshaped organs
- Eliminate waste and maintain water balance (homeostasis) through the production of urine



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Ureters

- Two tubes (25cm) in length; links a kidney to the bladder
- Transport urine produced in the kidneys to the bladder

Normal flow of urine (blue arrows)



<u>Bladder</u>

- Pear-shaped reservoir with elastic walls & stretch receptors
- Stores urine until it is released through urination (sphincters)
- The bladder can hold about 1 liter of urine



Urethra

- Tube (3-4cm) in length in women
- 20cm in length in men
- Transports urine from the bladder to the outside





Composition of Urine

- The kidneys help maintain the blood in balance (homeostasis)
- They maintain mineral concentration and the amount of water found in the blood
- If an excess of either is found in the blood, the kidneys will simply excrete them



- The kidneys filter blood
- They remove waste by producing a liquid <u>Urine</u>
- <u>Urea</u> is the main waste product from the blood (made up of carbon dioxide, nitrogen and oxygen)
- It is **created by the breakdown of proteins** and *amino acids* used by the cells of our body



- Urine is made up of the following:
- Water (95%)
- Urea (2.5%)
- Minerals
- Substances that are excess in the blood
- Protein, glucose, fats or blood cells (indication of health problems)



• Traces of medication, drugs...





- The amount of urine produced depends on the concentration of <u>minerals</u> and <u>water</u> in the body.
- If concentration of <u>minerals</u> is low, kidneys will excrete more <u>water</u>.
- If concentration of <u>minerals</u> high, kidneys excrete less water and we feel thirsty!!!



1. <u>Hypertension: High Blood Pressure</u>

- Narrowed arteries in the kidneys can damage kidneys.
- Too much fluid can also raise blood pressure
- Damaged blood vessels may stop the removal of wastes or fluid from the body

2. Diabetes

• Glucose found in urine



- High glucose levels can damage blood vessels, stopping them from filtering blood
- Can also damage nerves that tell bladder when it is full, which can lead to bladder lining being damaged and possible other infections.

- 3. Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)
- Caused by E. Coli bacteria
- More common in women than in men
- Can lead to **Kidney Infection** when it moves upwards



The dreadful truth behind urinary tract infections

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

Symptoms include:

- **Burning** sensation during urination
- Increased frequency of urination
- Blood in urine



5. Proteinuria

- High amounts of protein found in urine
- Caused by damaged tubules in kidneys
- Sign of chronic Kidney Disease
- Proteins found in blood seep into urine as kidneys are filtering blood
- The protein is supposed to stay within the body

6. Kidney Stones

- Hard insoluble crystallized stones found in urinary tract
- Accumulation of calcium in blood (80%), uric acid (5%) or magnesium (2%)
- Stones pass down ureters

Kidney Stones

- Very **painful**
- Can shutdown kidneys temporarily
- Can be broken up by
 ultrasound, surgically removed, or pass through system on their own



7. Kidney Failure

- Kidneys stop functioning
- Renal dialysis can be used on a short –term basis to filter blood
- Hooked up to dialysis machine for several days a week
- Major change in lifestyle
- Kidney transplant eventually needed



