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#### CHAPTER



#### ENTH EDITION

# ESSENTIAL OF HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

#### **ELAINE N. MARIEB**

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# The Urinary System

#### **Functions of the Urinary System**

Elimination of waste products

Nitrogenous wastes

Toxins

• Drugs

#### **Functions of the Urinary System**

- Regulate aspects of homeostasis
  - Water balance
  - Electrolytes
  - Acid-base balance in the blood
  - Blood pressure
  - Red blood cell production
  - Activation of vitamin D

# **Organs of the Urinary System**

- Kidneys
- Ureters
- Urinary bladder
- Urethra





#### **Location of the Kidneys**

 Against the dorsal body wall in a retroperitoneal position (behind the parietal peritoneum)

• At the level of the  $T_{12}$  to  $L_3$  vertebrae

• The right kidney is slightly lower than the left (due to position of the liver)

#### **Kidney Features**

#### Renal hilum

 A medial indentation where several structures enter or exit the kidney (ureters, renal blood vessels, and nerves)

An adrenal gland sits atop each kidney



# **Coverings of the Kidneys**

#### Fibrous capsule

Surrounds each kidney

#### Perirenal fat capsule

 Surrounds the kidney and cushions against blows

#### Renal fascia

 Outermost capsule that helps hold the kidney in place against the muscles of the trunk wall

#### **Regions of the Kidney**

Renal cortex—outer region

• **Renal medulla**—inside the cortex

• Renal pelvis—inner collecting tube



#### **Kidney Structures**

• Renal or medullary pyramids—triangular regions of tissue in the medulla

• **Renal columns**—extensions of cortex-like material inward that separate the pyramids

 Calyces—cup-shaped structures that funnel urine towards the renal pelvis



# **Blood Supply**

 One-quarter of the total blood supply of the body passes through the kidneys each minute

 Renal artery provides each kidney with arterial blood supply

 Renal artery divides into segmental arteries → interlobar arteries → arcuate arteries → cortical radiate arteries

# **Blood Supply**

#### Venous blood flow

 Cortical radiate veins → arcuate veins → interlobar veins → renal vein

• There are no segmental veins



# **Nephron Anatomy and Physiology**

The structural and functional units of the kidneys

Responsible for forming urine

- Main structures of the nephrons
  - Glomerulus
  - Renal tubule



# **Nephron Anatomy**

#### Glomerulus

- Knot of capillaries
- Capillaries are covered with podocytes from the renal tubule
- Glomerulus sits within a **glomerular (Bowman's) capsule** (the first part of the renal tubule)
  - Inner layer of the capsule contains podocytes
  - Podocytes have *filtration slits* and *foot processes* that stick to the glomerulus



#### **Filtration slits**



#### **Nephron Anatomy**

- Renal tubule extends from glomerular capsule and ends at the collecting duct
  - Glomerular (Bowman's) capsule
  - Proximal convoluted tubule (PCT)
  - Loop of Henle

#### Distal convoluted tubule (DCT)

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# **Types of Nephrons**

#### Cortical nephrons

- Located entirely in the cortex
- Includes most nephrons

#### Juxtamedullary nephrons

Found at the boundary of the cortex and medulla



#### **Collecting Duct**

Receives urine from many nephrons

• Run through the medullary pyramids

Deliver urine into the calyces and renal pelvis



#### **Nephron Anatomy**

 Nephrons are associated with two capillary beds

• Glomerulus

Peritubular capillary bed

#### Glomerulus

• Fed and drained by arterioles

- Afferent arteriole—arises from a cortical radiate artery and feeds the glomerulus
- Efferent arteriole—receives blood that has passed through the glomerulus

Specialized for filtration

• High pressure forces fluid and solutes out of blood and into the glomerular capsule





- Glomerular filtration: Water and solutes smaller than proteins are forced through the capillary walls and pores of the glomerular capsule into the renal tubule.
- 3 → Tubular secretion: H+, K+, creatinine, and drugs are removed from the peritubular blood and secreted by the tubule cells into the filtrate.

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#### **Peritubular Capillary Beds**

Arise from efferent arteriole of the glomerulus

Normal, low pressure capillaries

Adapted for absorption instead of filtration

 Cling close to the renal tubule to reabsorb (reclaim) some substances from collecting tubes



#### **Urine Formation**

Glomerular filtration

Tubular reabsorption

Tubular secretion



- Glomerular filtration: Water and solutes smaller than proteins are forced through the capillary walls and pores of the glomerular capsule into the renal tubule.
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## **Glomerular Filtration**

Nonselective passive process

 Water and solutes smaller than proteins are forced through capillary walls

 Proteins and blood cells are normally too large to pass through the filtration membrane

• Filtrate is collected in the glomerular capsule and leaves via the renal tubule

# **Tubular Reabsorption**

- The peritubular capillaries reabsorb useful substances
  - Water
  - Glucose
  - Amino acids
  - lons
- Some reabsorption is passive, most is active

## Most reabsorption occurs in the proximal convoluted tubule

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Figure 15.5

## **Tubular Reabsorption**

- •What materials are *not* reabsorbed?
  - Nitrogenous waste products

• Urea—protein breakdown

• Uric acid—nucleic acid breakdown

• Creatinine—associated with creatine metabolism in muscles

# **Tubular Secretion: Reabsorption in Reverse**

- Some materials move from the blood of the peritubular capillaries into the renal tubules
  - Hydrogen and potassium ions
  - Creatinine

 Process is important for getting rid of substances not already in the filtrate

## Materials left in the renal tubule move toward the ureter

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Figure 15.5

- In 24 hours, about 1.0 to 1.8 liters of urine are produced
- Urine and filtrate are different
  - Filtrate contains everything that blood plasma does (except proteins)
  - Urine is what remains after the filtrate has lost most of its water, nutrients, and necessary ions through reabsorption
  - Urine contains nitrogenous wastes and substances that are not needed

- Yellow color due to the pigment urochrome (from the destruction of hemoglobin) and solutes
  - Dilute urine is a pale, straw color
- Sterile
- Slightly aromatic
- Normal pH of around 6

#### • Specific gravity of 1.001 to 1.035

- Solutes normally found in urine
  - Sodium and potassium ions
  - Urea, uric acid, creatinine
  - Ammonia
  - Bicarbonate ions

- Solutes NOT normally found in urine
  - Glucose
  - Blood proteins
  - Red blood cells
  - Hemoglobin
  - White blood cells (pus)



# **Abnormal Urine Constituents**

Substance	Name of Condition	Possible Causes
Glucose	Glucosuria	Excess sugary intake; diabetes mellitus
Proteins	Proteinuria	Physical exertion, pregnancy; glomerulonephritis, hypertension
Pus (WBCs and bacteria)	Pyuria	Urinary tract infection
RBCs	Hematuria	Bleeding in the urinary tract
Hemoglobin	Hemoglobinuria	Various: transfusion reaction, hemolytic anemia
Bile pigments	Bilirubinuria	Liver disease (hepatitis)

## **Ureters**

- Slender tubes attaching the kidney to the bladder
  - Continuous with the renal pelvis
  - Enter the posterior aspect of the bladder

• Runs behind the peritoneum

Peristalsis aids gravity in urine transport





# **Urinary Bladder**

- Smooth, collapsible, muscular sac
- Temporarily stores urine
- **Trigone**—triangular region of the bladder base
  - Three openings
    - Two from the ureters
    - One to the urethra
  - In males, the prostate gland surrounds the neck of the bladder



## **Urinary Bladder Wall**

- Three layers of smooth muscle collectively called the detrusor muscle
- Mucosa made of transitional epithelium
- Walls are thick and folded in an empty bladder
- Bladder can expand significantly without increasing internal pressure

## **Urinary Bladder Capacity**

• A moderately full bladder is about 5 inches long and holds about 500 mL of urine

Capable of holding twice that amount of urine

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

## **Urethra**

- Thin-walled tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body by peristalsis
- Release of urine is controlled by two sphincters
  - Internal urethral sphincter
    - Involuntary and made of smooth muscle

## External urethral sphincter

• Voluntary and made of skeletal muscle

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

## **Urethra Gender Differences**

#### Length

- Females is 3 to 4 cm (1 inch)
- Males is 20 cm (8 inches)

#### Location

- Females—anterior to the vaginal opening
- Males—travels through the prostate and penis
  - Prostatic urethra
  - Membranous urethra
  - Spongy urethra

## **Urethra Gender Differences**

## Function

- Females—only carries urine
- Males—carries urine and is a passageway for sperm cells and semen

# **Micturition (Voiding)**

- Both sphincter muscles must open to allow voiding
- The internal urethral sphincter is relaxed after stretching of the bladder
- Pelvic splanchnic nerves initiate bladder to go into reflex contractions
- Urine is forced past the internal urethra sphincter and the person feels the urge to void
- The external urethral sphincter must be voluntarily relaxed to void

# Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Balance

- Blood composition depends on three factors
  - Diet
  - Cellular metabolism
  - Urine output

# Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Balance

- Kidneys have four roles in maintaining blood composition
  - Excretion of nitrogen-containing wastes (previously discussed)
  - Maintaining water balance of the blood
  - Maintaining electrolyte balance of the blood
  - Ensuring proper blood pH

- Normal amount of water in the human body
  - Young adult females = 50 percent
  - Young adult males = 60 percent
  - Babies = 75 percent
  - The elderly = 45 percent
- Water is necessary for many body functions, and levels must be maintained

# **Distribution of Body Fluid**

# Intracellular fluid (ICF)

- Fluid inside cells
- About two-thirds of body fluid

# • Extracellular fluid (ECF)

- Fluids outside cells that includes
  - Interstitial fluid
  - Blood plasma

Total body water Volume = 40 L 60% body weight	Extracellular fluid (ECF) Volume = 15 L 20% body weight	
Intracellular fluid (ICF) Volume = 25 L 40% body weight	PlasmaInterstitial fluid (IF) Volume = 12 L 80% of ECF3 L, 20% of ECF	

![](_page_65_Figure_0.jpeg)

## **The Link Between Water and Salt**

- Solutes in the body include electrolytes like sodium, potassium, and calcium ions
- Changes in electrolyte balance causes water to move from one compartment to another
  - Alters blood volume and blood pressure
  - Can impair the activity of cells

Water intake must equal water output

- Sources for water intake
  - Ingested foods and fluids
  - Water produced from metabolic processes

Thirst mechanism is the driving force for water intake

- Sources for water output
  - Vaporization out of the lungs (*insensible* since we cannot sense the water leaving)
  - Lost in perspiration
  - Leaves the body in the feces

## • Urine production

![](_page_69_Figure_0.jpeg)

Dilute urine is produced if water intake is excessive

 Less urine (concentrated) is produced if large amounts of water are lost

 Proper concentrations of various electrolytes must be present

## Regulation of Water and Electrolyte Reabsorption • Osmoreceptors

- Sensitive cells in the hypothalamus
- React to small changes in solute blood composition by becoming more active
- When activated, the thirst center in the hypothalamus is notified
- A dry mouth due to decreased saliva also promotes the thirst mechanism


# Regulation of Water and Electrolyte Reabsorption

- Regulation occurs primarily by hormones
  - Antidiuretic hormone (ADH)
    - Prevents excessive water loss in urine
    - Causes the kidney's collecting ducts to reabsorb more water
  - Diabetes insipidus
    - Occurs when ADH is not released
    - Leads to huge outputs of dilute urine

# Regulation of Water and Electrolyte Reabsorption

 Regulation occurs primarily by hormones (continued)

#### Aldosterone

- Regulates sodium ion content of ECF
- Sodium is the electrolyte most responsible for osmotic water flows
- Aldosterone promotes reabsorption of sodium ions

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# Regulation of Water and Electrolyte Reabsorption

- Renin-angiotensin mechanism
  - Mediated by the juxtaglomerular (JG) apparatus of the renal tubules
  - When cells of the JG apparatus are stimulated by low blood pressure, the enzyme renin is released into blood
  - Renin produces **angiotensin II**
  - Angiotensin causes vasoconstriction and aldosterone release
  - Result is increase in blood volume and blood pressure



#### Figure 15.12

## **Maintaining Acid-Base Balance in Blood**

- Blood pH must remain between 7.35 and 7.45 to maintain homeostasis
  - Alkalosis—pH above 7.45
  - Acidosis—pH below 7.35
  - Physiological acidosis—pH between 7.35 and 7.0
- Most ions originate as by-products of cellular metabolism

## **Maintaining Acid-Base Balance in Blood**

- Acids produced by the body
  - Phosphoric acid, lactic acid, fatty acids
  - Carbon dioxide forms carbonic acid
  - Ammonia
- Most acid-base balance is maintained by the kidneys
- Other acid-base controlling systems
  - Blood buffers
  - Respiration

## **Blood Buffers**

#### Acids are proton (H<sup>+</sup>) donors

- Strong acids dissociate completely and liberate all of their H<sup>+</sup> in water
- Weak acids, such as carbonic acid, dissociate only partially

#### Bases are proton (H<sup>+</sup>) acceptors

- Strong bases dissociate easily in water and tie up H<sup>+</sup>
- Weak bases, such as bicarbonate ion and ammonia, are slower to accept H<sup>+</sup>



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### **Blood Buffers**

- Molecules react to prevent dramatic changes in hydrogen ion (H<sup>+</sup>) concentrations
  - Bind to H<sup>+</sup> when pH drops
  - Release H<sup>+</sup> when pH rises
- Three major chemical buffer systems
  - Bicarbonate buffer system
  - Phosphate buffer system
  - Protein buffer system

## **The Bicarbonate Buffer System**

- Mixture of carbonic acid (H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>)
  - Carbonic acid is a weak acid that does not dissociate much in neutral or acid solutions

Bicarbonate ions (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) react with strong acids to change them to weak acids
 HCI + NaHCO<sub>3</sub> → H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> + NaCI strong acid weak base weak acid salt

## **The Bicarbonate Buffer System**

 Carbonic acid dissociates in the presence of a strong base to form a weak base and water

 $NaOH + H_2CO_3 \rightarrow NaHCO_3 + H_2O$ 

strong base weak acid weak base water

# **Respiratory System Controls of Acid-Base Balance**

 Carbon dioxide in the blood is converted to bicarbonate ion and transported in the plasma

- Increases in hydrogen ion concentration produces more carbonic acid
- Excess hydrogen ion can be blown off with the release of carbon dioxide from the lungs
- Respiratory rate can rise and fall depending on changing blood pH

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### **Renal Mechanisms of Acid-Base Balance**

Excrete bicarbonate ions if needed

 Conserve (reabsorb) or generate new bicarbonate ions if needed

## **Renal Mechanisms of Acid-Base Balance**

#### • When blood pH rises

- Bicarbonate ions are excreted
- Hydrogen ions are retained by kidney tubules

#### • When blood pH falls

- Bicarbonate ions are reabsorbed
- Hydrogen ions are secreted

#### • Urine pH varies from 4.5 to 8.0

# **Developmental Aspects of the Urinary System**

- Functional kidneys are developed by the third month of fetal life
- Urinary system of a newborn
  - Bladder is small
  - Urine cannot be concentrated for first
    2 months
  - Void 5 to 40 times per day

# **Developmental Aspects of the Urinary System**

- Control of the voluntary urethral sphincter does not start until age 18 months
- Complete nighttime control may not occur until the child is 4 years old
- Urinary infections are the only common problems before old age
  - Escherichia coli (E. coli), a type of bacteria, accounts for 80 percent of UTI (urinary tract infections)

# Aging and the Urinary System

 There is a progressive decline in urinary function

The bladder shrinks and loses bladder tone with aging

# **Aging and the Urinary System**

Associated problems with aging

- Urgency—feeling that it is necessary to void
- Frequency—frequent voiding of small amounts of urine
- **Nocturia**—need to get up during the night to urinate
- Incontinence—loss of control
- Urinary retention—common in males, often the result of hypertrophy of the prostate gland