

Hematuria

If you have been told you have hematuria that means that there is blood in your urine. “Gross hematuria” means that the urine appears to the naked eye to have blood in it because it is pink, red or brown in color. “Microscopic hematuria” means that though the urine appears normal, blood cells are seen on a urine dipstick or microscope plate.

Normally, there is no blood in urine so it is important to check for a source of bleeding. Blood can come from any part of the urinary tract (kidneys, ureter, bladder or urethra) and can be caused by stones, trauma, inflammation or tumors. Blood in the urine can also come from exercise, and there are times when no source of bleeding can be determined.

Evaluation for hematuria may involve several steps: a complete medical history, special x-ray studies and visual inspection of the lining of the bladder during a procedure called cystoscopy.