

Prostatitis

The prostate gland is located in the pelvic area in men. It sits just below the bladder. Its function is to secrete prostatic fluid, or semen, during ejaculation.

Prostatitis is an inflammation or infection of the prostate gland and can be acute or chronic. It usually occurs in men under the age of 40 years. Certain bacteria can cause prostatitis, but often the source of infection is not found.

While some patients have few or no symptoms, prostatitis can cause groin, pelvic or low back pain. Sometimes, flu-like symptoms such as chills and fever occur. The condition may also cause difficulty urinating, frequent or painful urination, and painful ejaculation.

Treatment often entails an extended course of antibiotics to treat infection and anti-inflammatory medications to provide relief from discomfort.

For a very thorough discussion of prostatitis, see the Mayo Clinic site:
<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/prostatitis/DS00341>