

DAYTIME URINARY FREQUENCY SYNDROME OF CHILDHOOD

Byard and Koff from Columbus Children's Hospital reviewed 43 children with this syndrome. All were completely toilet trained when isolated daytime urinary frequency suddenly developed. They ranged in age from 2 to 12 years and were equally divided between boys and girls. The condition lasted for from 2 days to 16 months with a mean of 2.5 months and resolved spontaneously in all, with a recurrence rate of 3%. However, if nocturnal enuresis accompanied the daytime symptoms, or if nocturnal frequency developed, the symptoms were of much longer duration and the recurrence rate approached 40%. Anticholinergic therapy with oxybutynin characteristically produced very little if any improvement in the symptoms. All urologic investigations, including ultrasound and voiding cystourethrography, were normal except in one child found to have diabetes insipidus. These authors thought that the etiology of the problem was unclear, but that most of it was behavioral. Of interest, 70% of the children were seen during cold weather months. The authors concluded that the daytime urinary frequency syndrome appears to be a benign, self-limited condition that does not require invasive or extensive urologic evaluation. Knowledge of the natural history of this condition helps both physicians and parents to deal with this frustrating problem.

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