

# PRENATAL ULTRASOUND FINDINGS

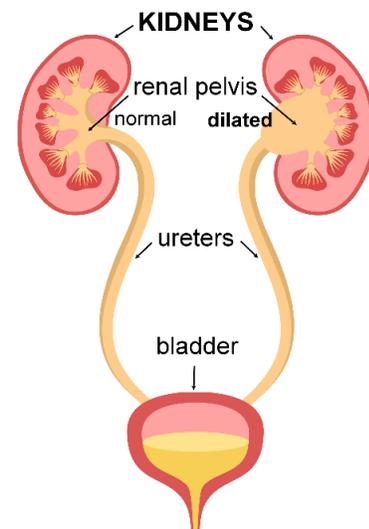
## Urinary Tract Dilation (UTD)

### What is UTD?

A baby's urinary tract is checked during a second trimester prenatal ultrasound. The urinary tract includes the kidneys, renal pelvis, ureters, and bladder. The renal pelvis is where urine collects inside the kidney. Urine moves from the renal pelvis to the bladder through a thin tube called the ureter. The sonographer looks at the urinary tract and measures the size of the kidneys and renal pelvis.

UTD means the renal pelvis is large (dilated). This can be seen in one or both kidneys. Most babies with a large renal pelvis are healthy at birth and have normal working kidneys.

UTD has also been called dilated renal pelvis, pyelectasis, or pelviectasis. This common finding is seen in about 1 in 50 babies (2%).



### What causes UTD?

UTD is not usually due to a serious medical problem. There is a wide range in the normal size of the renal pelvis. Some babies just have a larger renal pelvis than average. Some babies have urine that moves backwards into the kidney (reflux). A large renal pelvis might also be due to a blockage in the ureter.

### What are the risk factors for UTD?

This can happen in any pregnancy, but it is more common in a male baby.

### Are any follow-up tests needed?

The follow-up tests offered depend on your ultrasound findings and which tests have already been done.

- **Genetic testing:** Some studies suggest a small chance for Down syndrome when UTD is seen. You may have already had a blood test that looks for Down syndrome. No further genetic testing is recommended if you had normal results from a prenatal screening test (either cfDNA or AFP4). If you have not had testing, you can talk with your OB provider about your options.
- **Detailed (level 2) ultrasound:** A detailed ultrasound is done to look more closely at the baby's urinary tract and other organs, but it is not always needed. This ultrasound may be recommended based on the size of the renal pelvis and any other ultrasound findings.
- **Third trimester ultrasound:** An ultrasound may be done in the third trimester to check for changes in the baby's urinary tract. This ultrasound helps determine if follow-up is needed after delivery.
- **Ultrasound after birth:** A kidney ultrasound may be recommended after birth if the renal pelvis remains dilated during pregnancy. Most babies will not need an ultrasound after birth.

### Will my baby need surgery?

Surgery is rarely needed when the renal pelvis stays the same size or gets smaller. Only a small number of babies with UTD ever need surgery.

**Where can I get more information?** You can speak with your OB provider if you have more questions about this ultrasound finding.