

The urobiome, urinary tract infections, and the need for alternative therapeutics

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Abstract

Improvements in bacterial culturing and DNA sequencing techniques have revealed a diverse, and hitherto unknown, urinary tract microbiome (urobiome). The potential role of this microbial community in contributing to health and disease, particularly in the context of urinary tract infections (UTIs) is of significant clinical importance. However, while several studies have confirmed the existence of a core urobiome, the role of its constituent microbes is not yet fully understood, particularly in the context of health and disease. Herein, we review the current state of the art, concluding that the urobiome represents an important component of the body's innate immune defences, and a potentially rich resource for the development of alternative treatment and control strategies for UTIs.

Areas for reflection

- Many professionals are still unaware of this development in the science behind UTIs. How can we continue to share such progress and ensure treatment remains up to date and clinically appropriate?
- How can this development be translated into useful patient advice?

You can find more information about UTIs and the latest approaches to assessment and treatment on our website [here](#) .

