Asymptomatic bacteriuria (bacteria in the urine with no symptoms) is colonization of the bladder that occurs frequently in the elderly, especially those with diabetes, immobility, incontinence, prostatic enlargement, or post-menopausal changes.

**ANTIBIOTICS NOT INDICATED!**
Asymptomatic bacteriuria is not an infection

- Do not test urine even if foul-smelling, dark, or cloudy

For hemodynamically stable elderly patients with cognitive changes, seek other causes: drug interactions / side effects, dehydration, sleep disturbances, sensory deprivation, hypoxia, hypoglycemia, constipation, etc.

*Note: Fall, decreased appetite, verbal aggression, wandering, confusion, and disorientation alone are not indications for urine testing.*

**HOLD URINE TESTING;**
- Monitor frequently
- Rehydrate / push fluids for 24 hours if not contraindicated

Possible urinary tract infection if at least TWO are present:
- Fever / rigors
- Flank pain / suprapubic pain
- Pain on urination
- New frequency
- Hematuria
- New incontinence

Dipsticks are not recommended due to poor predictive value. Urine culture ideally should be submitted in preservative.

**Send urine for urinalysis and urine culture**

**IT IS HARD TO IGNORE A POSITIVE URINE TEST...**

Unnecessary testing in colonized patients results in unnecessary antibiotics, which lead to adverse events (antibiotic resistance / failure, *C. difficile* infection, Gl upset, etc.)

For more directions and guidance:
www.ammi.ca
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