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Acute Kidney Injury

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Acute Kidney Injury

Acute kidney injury (sometimes known as AKI) is sudden damage to the kidneys that causes them to not work properly. It can range from minor loss of kidney function to complete kidney failure.

AKI normally happens as a complication of another serious illness.



Signs and Symptoms

- Nausea and vomiting
- Dehydration
- Confusion
- High blood pressure
- Abdominal pain
- Slight backache
- A build-up of fluid in the body (oedema)



Causes

Acute kidney injury can have many different causes:

- Low blood pressure (called "hypotension") or shock
- Blood or fluid loss (such as bleeding, severe diarrhoea)
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory painkillers (known as NSAIDS).
- Severe allergic reactions
- Burns
- Sepsis (A rare but very dangerous complication of infection)
- Blockage can be caused by: cancer, enlarged prostate, kidney stones



Ward Based Management

- Measure fluid input and output
- Advise patient to keep self hydrated
- Regular Physical observations
 - ▶ Heart rate
 - ▶ Blood Pressure (both sitting and standing)
 - ▶ Temperature
 - ▶ Respiratory rate
- Call a doctor