

Kidney Stone

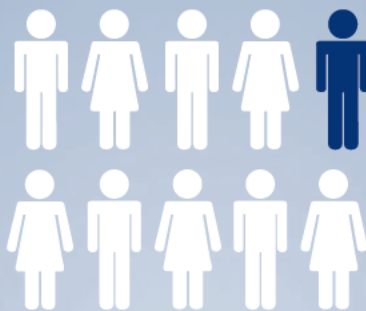
PREVENTION

The medical term for kidney stones is **nephrolithiasis**.

The medical term for stone occurring in the urinary tract is **urolithiasis**.

Kidney stones are small, hard mineral deposits that form in the kidney. They may stay in the kidney or travel down the urinary tract. Sometimes a stone will get stuck in the urinary tract.

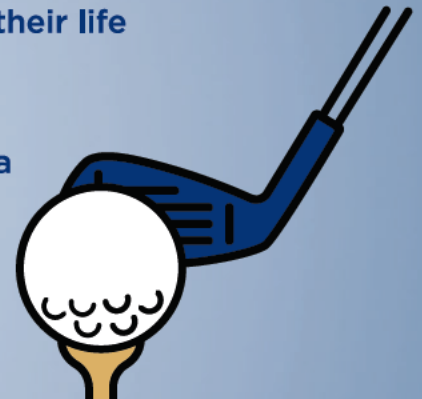
This blocks the flow of urine and can cause a lot of pain.



in 10

people will have a kidney stone at some point in their life

Kidney stones can be as small as a grain of sand or as large as a golf ball. The largest kidney stone on record weighed in at nearly 2.5 pounds and was removed from a Hungarian man.



Each year more than
500,000
PEOPLE
go to the emergency room
because of kidney stones.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, AND OBESITY may increase your chance of developing a kidney stone. Kidney stones are also known to run in the family. If you have other family members who have or have had kidney stones, you may also have a chance of developing one.

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PREVENTION

There are four types of kidney stones:

- **Calcium-oxalate stones** (the most common type) can be caused by foods with salt or oxalates, some medicines, genetics and other kidney problems
- **Struvite stones** affect women more than men, can grow very large and are often linked to recurring urinary tract infections
- **Uric acid stones** may be caused by eating too much animal protein or by genetics
- **Cystine stones** are very rare, caused by a genetic kidney disease called cystinuria

Tips to prevent kidney stones:



- Increase your daily water intake (strive for six to eight, 8-ounce glasses per day)



- Reduce the amount of salt in your diet



- Reduce the amount of animal protein (red meat, pork, etc.) in your diet



- Avoid stone-forming foods such as: beets, chocolate, spinach, rhubarb, tea, and most nuts, which are rich in oxalate—also avoid colas which are rich in phosphate and can contribute to kidney stones

- Get the recommended amount of calcium— talk with your healthcare provider or dietitian about whether you need supplements

50% of all people who get a stone will form another one. Watching your diet can help prevent any more stones.

Changing your diet and increasing fluids may not be enough to stop stones from forming. Your healthcare provider may prescribe you medicine to prevent more stones from forming.