

Purple Urine Bag Syndrome

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A patient presented to the emergency department with 2 weeks of dark urine, nausea, vomiting, and pain around her urostomy site. She was admitted for suspected bacterial sepsis, and subsequent urine cultures grew *Providencia rettgeri*, a species commonly associated with purple urine bag syndrome, which this patient had (image).¹ The patient was discharged 3 days later after antibiotic administration and resolution of symptoms.

Purple urine bag syndrome is a phenomenon in which the urine bag and tubing in patients with long-term catheterization turn blue or purple secondary to a urinary tract infection. The pathogenesis of

purple urine bag syndrome is related to the colonization of sulfatase- and phosphatase-producing bacteria that metabolize tryptophan into indigo and indirubin, which then accumulate and give urine the purple color.² (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2018.151)

References

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2. Hadano Y, Shimizu T, Takada S, Inoue T, Sorano S. An update on purple urine bag syndrome. *Int J Gen Med*. 2012;5:707-710. doi:10.2147/IJGM.S35320

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