

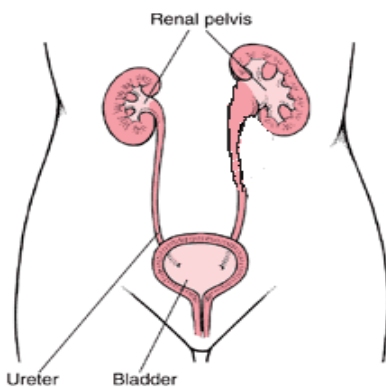
## Information about Dilated Renal Pelvis

As you know, an ultrasound scan of your baby has shown that it has got a minor problem of its kidneys known as dilation of the renal pelvis. This is seen at 1% of scans at 20 weeks. This leaflet aims to tell you more about this condition.

The kidneys are used to produce and collect urine. The urine is collected in an area of the kidneys known as the renal pelvis. The urine then trickles down a tube called the ureter to the bladder. The baby then passes the urine out into the amniotic fluid.

### What is the problem?

Your baby's renal pelvis appears to have become enlarged or dilated.



### Why does this happen?

This occurs when there is some disruption in the flow of urine from the kidney to the bladder. The urine is either held back or backtracks up the ureter into the kidney, thus making the renal pelvis dilate.

It may be that when the baby's kidneys were formed very early in pregnancy there was a minor error in the way the ureter or bladder was formed, which means the normal flow of urine is disturbed.

### Will my baby have other abnormalities?

Usually this is an isolated finding, but very occasionally may be associated with other problems. The sonographer will look very carefully at the baby during a scan and if we see any indication of other problems we will discuss these fully with you.

### Will this affect my baby?

It is most likely that this will have no affect on the baby during the pregnancy. In a very small number the collecting system continues to get bigger, but this should not affect the pregnancy and delivery.

When the baby is born occasionally there is a chance it could be prone to urine infections, which if left untreated could cause some kidney damage.

### What happens now?

We will usually scan you again at 34 weeks of pregnancy to see if the appearance has changed. Sometimes the renal pelvis looks normal at this scan.

If the renal pelvis remains dilated your baby will be offered a scan when it is 2-3 weeks old. If it still remains dilated, the baby may be started on a low dose of antibiotics until further scans can be arranged. Occasionally the scan at 34 weeks shows that the dilation is severe or involves the kidneys as well (hydronephrosis). If this occurs your baby may need to be scanned and put onto antibiotics before you go home. You will then be given an outpatients appointment to see the paediatrician (doctor specialising in children) who will be caring for your baby.

**We know that this may be an anxious time for you and we will do all that we can to support you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions on Tel: 01803 654611 or contact your team midwife.**