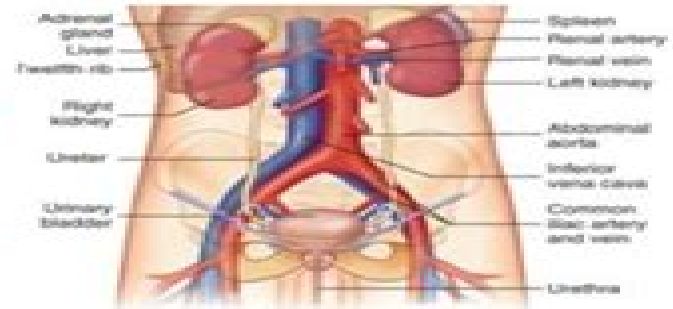


Urinary System

Anatomy & Physiology of Urinary System

Overview

- As the body breaks down protein for energy, nitrogenous waste- urea, ammonia, and creatinine- is produced.
- The urinary system 1) forms urine, 2) **balances fluid and electrolytes**, 3) balances pH, 4) excretes waste products, 5) **regulates blood pressure**, 6) creates red blood cells (**erythropoiesis**) , and 7) activates vitamin D , elevating calcium.
- Vitamin D helps absorption of calcium. (**Calciferol**)



Overview

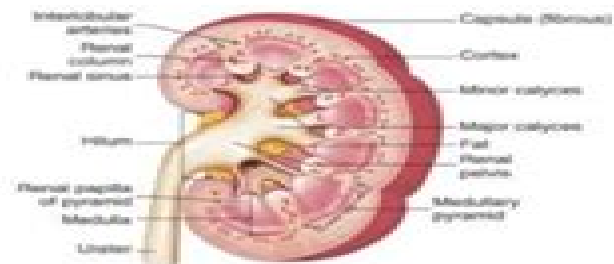
- Consists of two kidneys, two ureters, the bladder, and urethra.
- Kidneys:** removes waste, excess water, and electrolytes from the blood and concentrate them in the urine.
- Bladder:** collects and stores urine.
- Urethra:** transports urine from bladder to outside of the body.

Kidneys

- Lies parietal peritoneum, below diaphragm, each side of vertebral column; dark red, bean-shaped, 4-5 inch long, 1 inch thick; **right kidney lies slightly lower than left**; surrounded by adipose tissue; renal artery, renal vein, and ureter exit the kidney at the hilum; adrenal glands sit atop each kidney.

Gross Anatomic Structure

- The strong outer layer of connective tissue is the renal capsule. Beneath it is the renal cortex, containing 1.25 million renal tubules. **Next is the medulla (darker color)**. The medulla contains triangular pyramids; the narrow points are the papillae, which empties urine into the calyces. The calyces are cuplike extensions in renal pelvis. The renal pelvis is the upper end of the ureter.



Microscopic Structure (Nephron)

- Each kidney contains more than 1 million nephrons (a microscopic funnel with a long stem and two convoluted sections. **It filters the blood and processes urine by: 1) controlling body fluid levels by selectively removing or retaining water, 2) helps regulate pH of the blood, 3) removes toxic waste from the blood. It filters the entire blood supply approximately 60 times per day.**

Microscopic Structure (Nephron)

- The renal arteries enter each kidney at the hilum. Renal arteries continue branching inside the kidney until blood is delivered to the glomerulus by an afferent arteriole. The filtered blood leaves the

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