

Clinical Image

Purple Sign of Urine Bag

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A 61-year-old afebrile female patient in bedridden status with an indwelling urinary catheter presented to the outpatient clinic with turbid urine and purple discoloration of urine bag (Figure 1). Her medical history was remarkable for recurrent urinary tract infections and chronic constipation. After replacement of the urinary catheter and subsequently a short course of oral antibiotic, the purple discoloration in the urine bag was not witnessed in the next follow-up. Purple Urine Bag Syndrome (PUBS) is a rare phenomenon beginning with tryptophan being deaminated by the gut bacteria to indole, which is absorbed into the portal circulation and metabolized by the liver into indoxyl sulfate to be excreted in urine. Risk factors for developing PUBS include female gender, bedridden status, severe constipation, alkaline urine, renal failure, and Polyvinyl chloride-containing bags. Although being considered almost always harmless, PUBS might also indicate severe urinary tract infections with potential Fournier gangrene and sepsis, thus a further evaluation might be warranted.



Figure 1: Purple discoloration of urine bag.