10.3: Predisposing Factors

General Factors

- Females
- Elderly
- Diabetes mellitus: The glucose in urine is a good culture medium for organisms. Diabetes also impairs the function of white blood cells and diabetic autonomic neuropathy may cause a lower motor neuron neuropathic bladder with poor bladder emptying.
- Immunocompromised patients:
  - malnutrition
  - HIV/AIDS
  - cancer
  - chemotherapy
  - immunosuppression
- Analgesic abuse
  - can cause papillary necrosis

Local Factors

Any condition that impairs the normal flow of urine, or interferes with normal emptying can predispose to infection.

- Obstruction of upper tracts (kidneys and ureters)
  - stones
PUJ obstruction
  - sloughed papillae (diabetics)

Bladder outflow obstruction
  - urethral stricture
  - post mid-urethral tape surgery

Neuropathic bladder

Vesico-ureteric reflux

Foreign bodies in urinary tract
  - bladder catheter
  - double J ureteric stent

Urological "procedures"
  - cystoscopy
  - urodynamics

Vesico colic fistula

Pregnancy

Vaginal infections