

[15]) in healthy controls. The absence of detrusor hyperactivity on filling cystometry in both groups makes the presence of overactive bladder unlikely in these women. Finally, misclassification of hypersensitivity disorders in the control group would bias results towards the null hypothesis and therefore was probably not present.

Our finding that women with recurrent UTI have bladder oversensitivity and urinary frequency even in the absence of an acute infection has useful clinical implications. Given the lack of effective therapies for bladder oversensitivity, it is important that women with recurrent UTI undergo prompt evaluation and treatment of episodes of infection to prevent the development of bladder oversensitivity. Our findings are limited to young women in the age group 18–40 years. Larger prospective studies involving a broad range of age groups will be required to determine if women with recurrent UTI are at risk for developing interstitial cystitis.

Even in the absence of infection, premenopausal women with recurrent UTIs have bladder oversensitivity compared with control women.

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Abbreviations: IC/PBS, interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome; UDI-6, Urogenital Distress Inventory – 6.