

LETTERS

When is pus not pus?

There is perhaps a small but important error in the statement in the *CMAJ* article by Ajayi and Radhakrishnan on urinary tract infection in older adults in long-term care facilities: “Findings of bacteriuria or pyuria alone are insufficient to diagnose urinary tract infection; clinical symptoms must also be present.”¹ Surely not. If pathogenic bacteria are growing in the urinary tract and killing white cells, that is by definition a urinary tract infection.

The authors show clearly that these are common in long-term care facilities, and only some infections require treatment. But does this mean the others are mythical?

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Reference

1. Ajayi T, Radhakrishnan R. Urinary tract infection in older adults in long-term care facilities. *CMAJ* 2016;188:899.

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