

# Encopresis



**Encopresis** is the **inability to hold the stool**. From Greek *copros* – stool.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Encopresis in children** is defined as the arbitrary or involuntary withdrawal of stool after the age 4, often associated with soiling of underwear. It is more common in boys. Encopresis is often associated with enuresis.

## Primary encopresis

- often conditioned by an overall slowdown in psychomotor development;

## Secondary encopresis

- very often in chronic habitual constipation with bowel movements; burdensome experiences or chronic stress can also be the cause.
- in chronic habitual constipation, after emptying of the intestine and normalization of the frequency and consistency of stool, encopresis stops very quickly;
- psychological measures, counseling for parents.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Links

## Related articles

- Bowel emptying disorders
- Enuresis

## References

1. VOKURKA, Martin – HUGO, Jan, et al. *Velký lékařský slovník*. 5. edition. Prague : Maxdorf, 2005. ISBN 80-7345-058-5.
2. MUNTAU, Ania Carolina. *Pediatric*. 4. edition. Prague : Grada, 2009. pp. 553-554. ISBN 978-80-247-2525-3.