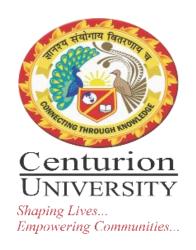
HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY-II

URINARY SYSTEM

(micturition reflex)



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Micturition

- Micturition or voiding is the act of emptying the bladder.
- **Accumulation:** Ordinarily, the bladder continues to collect urine until about 200 ml have accumulated.
- Activation: At about this point, stretching of the bladder wall activates stretch receptors.
- **Transmission:** Impulses transmitted to the sacral region of the spinal cord and then back to the bladder via the pelvic splanchnic nerves cause the bladder to go into reflex contractions.
- **Passage:** As the contractions become stronger, stored urine is forced past the internal urethral sphincter into the upper part of the urethra.
- External sphincter: Because the lower external sphincter is skeletal muscle and voluntarily controlled, we can choose to keep it closed or it can be relaxed so that urine is flushed from the body.

