

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria called neisseria gonococci. It may infect the cervix, urethra, anus and throat. Symptoms for women may include an increased yellow discharge from the vagina, burning with urination or no symptoms at all. Gonorrhea may be passed from mother to child during childbirth as the baby passes through the infected vaginal canal. Untreated gonorrhea in women may move into the uterus and fallopian tubes, causing a painful infection called PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease). PID may cause sterility, chronic pain, tubal pregnancy and, in extreme cases, death. Gonorrhea symptoms for men may include burning with urination, difficulty with urination, a thick yellow discharge or possibly no symptoms at all. Complications of untreated gonorrhea in men may include prostatitis and epididymitis, which can lead to sterility.

How to prevent it:

- Use a condom. This is an excellent method for preventing STIs. It is particularly advisable when having sex with a new or casual partner.
- Do not have intercourse with someone who has symptoms of an STI, such as abnormal discharge, burning with urination, sores, itching, etc. Ask new partners if they have had any symptoms in the last few months.
- Getting to know your partner before having intercourse may give you a better sense of his or her sexual practices. Your chances of getting an STI are lower with the fewer number of partners you or your partner(s) have.

What is the Treatment?

Gonorrhea is treated with antibiotics. All sexual partners must be examined and treated.

Antibiotics Used to Treat Gonorrhea:

You have been given the medication checked below. It is very important to take all of the medication as directed.

- Ceftriaxone 250 mg. You were given an injection of this medication into your buttocks. You may notice some tenderness at the injection site, which should resolve in a few days. DO NOT take Ceftriaxone if you are acutely allergic to penicillin.–
- Cefixime (Suprax) 400 mg #1. Take one (1) pill now.
- Cefpodoxime (Vantin) 200 mg #2. Take two (2) pills now.
- Gentamicin 240 mg. You were given an injection of this medication into your buttocks.

AND

- Doxycycline* 100 mg. Take one capsule every twelve (12) hours (two times a day) for seven (7) days. Do not take this drug if you think you may be pregnant or are nursing. If this drug upsets your stomach, take it with food or milk. Do not take Doxycycline if you are allergic to Tetracycline. When taking Doxycycline, you are more sensitive to sunburn, so apply a sunscreen lotion to your skin if you plan to be in the sun.
- Azithromycin one (1) gram. Take two (2) pills at one time.
- Azithromycin two (2) grams. Take four (4) pills at one time.

If you have any side effects from your medication, call the clinic immediately.

Call the health center if you do not take all of your medication or have intercourse with an untreated partner; return to the clinic for another exam.

Follow-Up After Treatment

1. It is advised that you and your partner(s) abstain from intercourse until all treatment is complete.
2. You should be retested three (3) months.
3. You should have a test for syphilis now and again in three (3) months.
4. Using condoms may protect you from gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. Being exposed to one type of sexually transmitted infection may put you at higher risk for others. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please let a staff person know.