

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea (gon-or-e-uh) is a **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)** caused by a type of bacteria, *N. gonorrhea*. Gonorrhea can infect men and women. It is passed from one person to another during vaginal, anal and oral sex. It can be found in the throat, vagina, urethra and anus. Babies can be infected during birth, causing eye infections.

What are the symptoms of gonorrhea?

Men:

Symptoms usually appear within 10 days after being exposed. The following are symptoms to look for:

- Discharge from the head of the penis, or the anus
- Pain or itching of the head of the penis
- Occasionally, swelling of the penis
- Pain with urination
- Occasionally, discharge may appear then go away without treatment. However, you may still be infected.

Throat:

Gonorrhea can be transmitted to the throat by an infected penis. Most of the time there are no symptoms although it may cause a “sore throat”.

Rectum:

If gonorrhea infects the rectum, there may be white discharge on stools, pain, spasm, and rectal itching. As in the throat, there may be no symptoms at all.

Women:

Symptoms usually appear within 10 days after being exposed. The following are symptoms to look for:

- Discharge from the vagina.
- Lower abdominal pain, especially with sex.
- Unusual vaginal bleeding with cramping.
- Pain with urination.
- Often, women have no symptoms at all but may still be infected.

Is gonorrhea serious?

- Men can occasionally develop epididymitis, an infection of the testicles which is painful and can cause sterility (blockage of sperm).
- Yes! If you are a woman and have gonorrhea you could become sterile (unable to produce children). PID (pelvic inflammatory disease), a serious pelvic infection in women, is a common result of untreated gonorrhea infection. In PID the bacteria move from the vagina up through the cervix and into the uterus, tubes and ovaries. Blockage and scarring can damage the tubes and make a woman more likely to have a “tubal pregnancy.”

How is gonorrhea treated?

- Your clinician will give you antibiotic medicine to kill the gonorrhea in your body. **Avoid** having sex (you and your partner) for **one full week** after your treatment.
- Your sex partner(s) must be examined and treated. If not treated, they can give the infection back to you, or infect others.

How can I avoid getting gonorrhea?

- Plan ahead! Protect yourself!
- If you're thinking of having sex with a new partner:
- Talk about STDs
- Talk about your wish to have protected, safer sex (male or female condoms) 100% of the time

For more STD info:

<http://www.noah-health.org/>
<http://www.sfsi.org/>
<http://www.ashastd.org/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

Gay Men's Health:

<http://www.healthypenis2003.org/>
<http://inspot.org/>
<http://www.gmhc.org>

If you contracted Gonorrhea from anal sex and you do not know the HIV status of that sexual partner, you should be concerned about your increased risk of HIV. Talk to your clinician.

For a STD check-up or treatment,
see your doctor, local clinic, or come to:



City Clinic
356 Seventh Street
(between Folsom and Harrison)
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415)487-5500

<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/sfcityclinic/>