

# PROCTITIS

Proctitis is an infection or inflammation in the rectum. It can be caused by bacteria or viruses.

Proctitis can be caused by gonorrhea, chlamydia, Mpox, herpes and other germs passed through anal sex.

Rectal pain, bleeding, sores and/or discharge are all possible symptoms of proctitis. You might also notice a swollen, painful lymph node in your groin.

It can be. Proctitis can be very painful and can increase your risk of getting infected with HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections. Untreated proctitis can cause scarring and other serious/painful long-term problems.

Some proctitis is caused by LGV (lymphogranuloma venereum). LGV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by specific strains of chlamydia.

- You will be given antibiotic medicines. *It's important to finish your medication to completely treat the infection.*
- If you have proctitis, we will send a test for LGV. The lab will do the LGV test only if your rectal chlamydia test is positive. Depending on the results of your tests, we may call you back in and ask you to take antibiotics for a longer course.
- Your sex partners must be treated. If they aren't treated, they could give the infection back to you, or infect others.
- Don't have sex while you are taking the antibiotic. Don't have sex with your partner while you are both taking your medicine.
- If your symptoms do not go away, return to the clinic for a further check-up.

If you're thinking of having sex with a new partner:

- Condoms are effective in reducing the risk of infection.
- Ask your health care provider about doxy-PEP.
- Do not have sex if you or a sexual partner has symptoms of an STI, including discharge, burning with urination, rash, or genital sores.
- Proctitis can increase the risk of HIV infection. *If you have proctitis and are HIV-negative, talk to your health care provider about PrEP.*

**For more information:**

Please talk with your City Clinic clinician or your own health care provider. The following websites also offer helpful information:

**General STI**

[www.ashasexualhealth.org](http://www.ashasexualhealth.org) (also in Español)

[www.cdc.gov/std/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/)

[www.sfcityclinic.org](http://www.sfcityclinic.org)

[www.sfsi.org/](http://www.sfsi.org/)

**Contraception and STI/sex info**

[www.bedsider.org](http://www.bedsider.org)

**Teens**

[www.iwannaknow.org](http://www.iwannaknow.org)

[www.kidshealth.org/teen](http://www.kidshealth.org/teen) (also in Español)

[www.scarleteen.com](http://www.scarleteen.com)

For a STI check-up or treatment,  
see your health care provider, local clinic, or come to:



A landmark in prevention

City Clinic  
356 7th Street  
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