



Gonorrhoea Facts

What is gonorrhoea?

- A bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) caused by the bacteria *Neisseria Gonorrhoea*.
- It is also known as “The Clap”.

How can you get it?

Gonorrhoea can be passed through vaginal, anal or oral sex.

Some behaviours increase your risk of getting gonorrhoea:

- Having unprotected sex (not using condoms or dental dams);
- Having multiple sex partners;
- If you are sharing sex toys; and
- Can be spread from an infected mother to her baby during birth.

Gonorrhoea can be passed even if you do not have symptoms. It is contagious until treatment is completed.

How do you know if you have it?

Get tested!

Many people do not have any symptoms. Symptoms can appear between 2 days and 4 weeks after contracting the infection. Symptoms occur in the rectum, penis, cervix or throat and may include:

Female Symptoms

- Vaginal bleeding or pain
- Yellowish-white vaginal discharge
- Burning when urinating
- Rectal pain, itching, bleeding
- Painful bowel movements
- A sore throat

Male Symptoms

- Painful/swollen testicles
- Discharge from the penis
- Burning when urinating
- Rectal pain, itching, bleeding
- Painful bowel movements
- A sore throat

Testing is the only way to find out if you have gonorrhoea.

Testing for gonorrhoea can be done at a health clinic. For men and women, testing requires a swabbing of the infected area or a urine sample.





Treatment

- Medications cure the infection completely if taken as directed.
- Your recent sexual partners should also be informed as they will require testing and/or treatment.
- It will be safe to have sex one week after both you and your partner(s) have completed treatment, provided all symptoms have disappeared.
- If you are treated for gonorrhea and your partner(s) is not, you will probably become infected again, so encourage your partner(s) to get tested and treated before having sex.
- Having a gonorrhea infection that was cured does not protect you from a future infection. You can get gonorrhea again, even if you were treated and cured.

Treatment is recommended for:

- A person who has a positive gonorrhea test.
- Anyone who has had sexual contact in the past 60 days with a person diagnosed with gonorrhea, whether or not they have symptoms or used condoms.
- A newborn whose mother has gonorrhea at the time of delivery.

Prevention

- Using condoms and dental dams properly, every time during oral, vaginal, and anal sex can help prevent the spread of gonorrhea.
- Before you and a new partner engage in sexual activity, you both should be tested to ensure neither of you has gonorrhea or other STIs.
- Avoid sexual contact if you have symptoms of an STI or are being treated for an STI.
- Avoid sexual contact with anyone who has symptoms of an STI or who may have been exposed to an STI.
- Having more than one sex partner at a time increases your risk for an STI.

What happens if gonorrhea is not treated?

Untreated gonorrhea can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women, which can cause chronic pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic pregnancy. In men, untreated gonorrhea may cause epididymitis

