



**YOUR
HEALTH.
YOUR
CHOICE.**

Gonorrhea

Talk to your partner(s) about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and your health before you have sex. You can pass on an STI without knowing you have one. During sex, you can use latex condoms to lower your chances of getting STIs.

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection. It is caused by a bacteria. Gonorrhea can cause serious health problems. It has to be treated. Gonorrhea can infect the penis, rectum, throat, eyes, or cervix. The cervix is the opening into the uterus. The rectum is the lower part of your intestines. It is a reportable infection, meaning that if you test positive for Gonorrhea, you may be contacted by a clinic or health department to get contact information for current and past sexual partners for notification and testing purposes. Your name is not disclosed when a current or past sexual partner is notified.

How do you get Gonorrhea?

You get Gonorrhea if you have unprotected oral sex, vaginal sex, or anal sex with a person who already has the infection. A pregnant woman can also pass it to her baby while she is giving birth.

How can you tell if you have Gonorrhea?

Some people who have Gonorrhea do not have any signs that tell them they have a sexually transmitted infection. You can pass on gonorrhea without even knowing that you have it.

If you have Gonorrhea, you might notice

Women

- ★ Strange discharge from your vagina.
- ★ Itchy, red, or swollen vagina.
- ★ Pain when you urinate.
- ★ Pain in your lower abdomen.
- ★ Pain when you have vaginal intercourse.

Men

- ★ Pain when you urinate.
- ★ Discharge from your penis that is thick, white, and yellow.

It is important to use condoms or a latex barrier with sexual partners to decrease the risk of getting a sexually transmitted infection.

How do you get tested for Gonorrhea?

For women, the clinician will check for infection by taking a swab of the cervix.

For men, the clinician will swab the urethra, the opening of the penis, or by use a urine test. For the urine test, it is important that men do not urinate for 2 hours before the test is taken.

Do you need a follow up test?

Y-es. You should have another test one week after finishing your antibiotics. Women should also get a second follow-up test after they've finished their antibiotics and had one period. The only way to be sure that you are cured and can no longer pass on the infection is to do the follow up test after you have taken all of the antibiotic pills. If the test is negative, you no longer have Gonorrhea and cannot pass it on to your partners.

How is Gonorrhea treated?

It is important to treat Gonorrhea because it can lead to serious health problems.

Gonorrhea can be cured with antibiotics. You should tell your sexual partner(s) that you have Gonorrhea. They need to get treated too. It's a good idea to refrain from unprotected intercourse until the treatment is completed to ensure you don't infect your partner(s).

If you need further information or would like to book an appointment, call:

Planned Parenthood Toronto Health Services for youth ages 13 to 29. 416-927-7171. Health Services offers same-day, scheduled and drop-in appointments. For more information visit www.ppt.on.ca.

Women's Programming at the Bay Centre for Birth Control for women of all ages at 416-351-3700.

Youth can also access information about sexual health by calling the Teen Sex InfoLine at 416-961-3200 or chat live using MSN messenger at spiderbytes@hotmail.com from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and 12 noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. You can also email us a question anytime at askus@spiderbytes.ca or visit www.spiderbytes.ca.