

How is Gonorrhoea treated?

In most cases, gonorrhoea is treated with a one dose of antibiotics as an injection as well as a tablet antibiotic.

Often chlamydia and gonorrhoea occur together, so you might be given treatment for both infections (an extra week of antibiotic tablets (doxycycline)).

Does my partner need treatment?

If you have had sex without a condom with your partner(s) they are probably infected.

We will need to contact any people you have had any sexual contact with in the last 3 months. They need a sexual health check and treatment even if they have no symptoms or a negative gonorrhoea test.

Important advice

- Finish all the antibiotics – even if you feel better in a few days, because the bacteria may not be gone.
- Do not have sex without a condom for at least 7 days after treatment because you can still infect someone.
- Your partner(s) must not have any sex without a condom for 7 days after their treatment as they can re-infect you too

- Book a 3 month check-up to check that the infection has not come back.

Contact us

Phone 0800 739 432 Monday to Friday to book your appointment at one of the Auckland Sexual Health Clinics or visit our website www.ashs.org.nz for more information around opening hours.

Greenlane Clinical Centre
Building 7 Level 3
Greenlane West

North Shore
418 Glenfield Rd
Glenfield

South Auckland
12 Waddon Place
Mangere

West Auckland
Totara Health Level 2
1 McCrae Way
New Lynn



This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on disease. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. People are strongly advised to check with their healthcare provider about any specific questions or concerns. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of publishing (2020).



Gonorrhoea



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What is Gonorrhoea?

Neisseria gonorrhoeae is a sexually transmitted bacterial infection.

In males it infects the urethra (tube inside the penis) and in women it infects the urethra and cervix (tube that transports urine and the neck of the womb).

It can also infect the rectum (bottom) and sometimes the eyes and throat.

How does someone get Gonorrhoea?

- Gonorrhoea spreads really effectively through contact with genital fluids from the penis and vagina.
- If you have vaginal sex, anal sex or oral sex without a condom you may become infected.
- Other sexual activities such as mutual masturbation, fingering and sharing sex toys may also spread the infection.
- Gonorrhoea can be passed from mother to baby during birth. The baby may develop eye or joint infections.
- Using condoms everytime you have sex decreases your chances of getting gonorrhoea

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms for Women:

- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Irregular vaginal bleeding
- Pain or discomfort when you pee
- Pain during sex.

Most women do not have any signs or symptoms.

Symptoms for Men:

- Thick, yellow, white or clear discharge (fluid) from the penis
- Pain or discomfort when you pee
- Redness around the urethra (hole where the pee comes out)
- The infection can spread to the testicles (balls) causing pain and swelling.

Men are more likely to have symptoms.

You might notice symptoms 2-10 days after you get the infection. Some men have no symptoms, especially those with anal or throat gonorrhoea.

Both men and women

Gonorrhoea can be transmitted to the rectum (bottom) through anal sex. This can cause discharge or discomfort, but often there are no symptoms.

How do I know if I have Gonorrhoea?

The best way to find out if you have gonorrhoea is to have a sexual health check.

This involves an examination and taking a urine test in men (we might also take a swab from the penis) and a swab from the vagina in women.

Swabs can also be taken from the throat or rectum (bottom) if these areas have been involved in sexual contact.

Why get treated?

If it's untreated, gonorrhoea can cause:

- Infection in the womb, tubes and pelvis, infertility, ectopic pregnancy and pelvic pain in women.
- Complications in pregnancy for both the mum and baby.
- Epididymo-orchitis (infection around the balls) in men (rarely infertility)
- Joint infection
- Conjunctivitis (eye infection)
- Septicaemia (infection in the blood)
- Increased chance of getting HIV if you are exposed