

What is gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is a bacterial infection of the genitals, anus or throat.

How does someone catch this infection?

Gonorrhoea is passed on by having vaginal, anal or oral sex without a condom, with someone who has the infection.

How do I know if I have gonorrhoea?

In men with a urethral (inside the penis) infection, symptoms usually occur within 2-10 days after infection, though symptoms sometimes take months to appear. Such men may have a discharge coming from their penis, irritation, or pain on urinating. Infections of the cervix, anus and throat usually cause no symptoms, however, vaginal or anal discharge or pelvic pain in women may be caused by gonorrhoea.

How do you test for gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea can be diagnosed by a swab collected from the urethra, cervix, anus or throat, or by urine sample.

What is the treatment?

The correct antibiotics easily cure gonorrhoea.

Do sexual partners need treatment?

Sexual partners exposed by vaginal, oral or anal sex without using a condom are at high risk of infection. In order to prevent the potential serious complications of gonorrhoea,

all partners should be tested and **treated regardless of symptoms or test results**. Sexual intercourse (oral, anal and vaginal) with any partners who may have been infected should be avoided until they have been treated, as you may get re-infected.

Sexual health clinic staff can provide confidential assistance with advising contacts of the need for treatment.

What are the complications of this infection?

If gonorrhoea is not treated in women, it may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This is when the reproductive organs in the pelvis become inflamed.

PID may cause ectopic pregnancies (the pregnancy develops in the fallopian tubes instead of the uterus), infertility (when the fallopian tubes become damaged by scar tissue) or chronic pelvic pain. Similarly, men may develop inflammation of their upper genital tract if gonorrhoea is not adequately treated. This may cause pain in the testes.

What else do you need to know about gonorrhoea?

- Sexual intercourse (oral, anal and vaginal) should be avoided for 7 days after treatment, otherwise you may still transmit the infection or become re-infected.

- If you cannot abstain from sexual intercourse during this time, a condom should be used every time, including for oral sex.

How to correctly use a condom



- Choose a brand that fits you comfortably.
- Do not use teeth to open packet. Be careful not to tear condom with nails.
- Check "use by" date.



- Squeeze tip of condom and unroll on to erect penis.
- Pull back foreskin before unrolling if uncircumcised.
- Unroll condom fully to base of penis.



- Always use water-based lubricant.
- Do not use oil or Vaseline.
- During sex check condom is still in place.



- When finished, withdraw while penis is still erect.
- Hold on to the base of the condom to make sure it comes out and to prevent contents from spilling.
- Use condom only once.