

# Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) ALERT

Information for NSW sexual health clinicians, s100 GPs and gastroenterologists



Health

## Key points:

1. There is an ongoing increase in LGV among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Sydney
2. In MSM with proctitis, specifically request **LGV testing** on laboratory request form and note "proctitis"
3. Treatment for cases and sexual contacts is doxycycline 100mg b.d. orally for 21 days
4. Partner notification assistance is available at NSW SHIL on 1800 451 624

## Lymphogranuloma venereum

- Caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* genotypes L-1, L-2 and L-3.
- Transmitted sexually including via sharing of sex toys between partners; condoms are protective
- Increases risk of HIV transmission

## Current epidemiology

- There has been a marked rise in LGV cases seen among MSM in NSW in 2016
- Cases are concentrated in metropolitan Sydney, with a small number in regional centres
- Other STIs such as HIV and hepatitis C commonly co-exist with LGV

## Clinical presentation

- Typically proctitis (rectal pain, mucoid and/or haemorrhagic rectal discharge, bloody stools, tenesmus, constipation)
- Inguinal lymphadenopathy or genital ulcers are rarely seen in NSW
- Without treatment can result in rectal scarring, perirectal or perianal fistulas and strictures
- Symptoms typically begin within days but possibly up to a month after exposure
- Asymptomatic infection can occur

## Testing and diagnosis

- Proctoscopy is indicated when there is proctitis to swab rectal mucosa
- Self-collected anal swab is effective if proctoscopy is unable to be done
- Note "proctitis" on laboratory request form and specifically request "LGV testing"
- LGV testing requires a DNA extract; your regular laboratory will arrange for this to be sent to the reference laboratory, ICPMR-Pathology West, for specific LGV NAT analysis

## Treatment

- Doxycycline 100 mg orally, 12-hourly for 21 days
- Commence this treatment in any MSM with proctitis and add proctitis treatment as appropriate
- Re-assess for symptom resolution two weeks after treatment completion

## Patient education

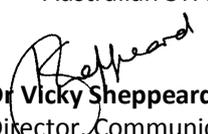
- Reinforce safe sex messages, including using condoms and lubricant and limiting the number of sexual partners; sex toys should not be shared; a new condom or glove should be used with each new partner if the patient practices group sex
- Reinforce importance of regular STI/HIV screening (every 3 months for MSM at high risk)

## Notification & treatment of partners

- Partner notification is critical to prevent further transmission and the clinician has a responsibility to ensure this is done; assistance is available at NSW Sexual Health Information Link on 1800 451 624 or see [www.shil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shil.nsw.gov.au)
- Contact sexual partners from 30 days before the patient's onset of symptoms until effectively treated
- Test sexual contacts for chlamydia, request LGV testing and treat presumptively with doxycycline 100mg b.d. orally for 21 days.

## More information and help is available at

- NSW Sexual Health Information Link: 1800 451 624 or [www.shil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shil.nsw.gov.au)
- Australian STI management guidelines [www.sti.guidelines.org.au](http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au)

  
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