

GONORRHEA 101

**GONORRHEA IS A VERY COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD).
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT MOST OFTEN IT'S COMPLETELY CURABLE.**

THE FACTS

Gonorrhea is a very common sexually transmitted disease (STD). It's a bacterial infection that can be passed on during unprotected vaginal, oral, and anal sex. People who have gonorrhea often show no symptoms, which is why many spread the infection to their partners without knowing it.

The good news is that most cases of gonorrhea can be easily treated with antibiotics. But if someone with gonorrhea doesn't get treated, it can cause serious health consequences, like infertility (the inability to have children). That's why it's so important to get tested, learn your status, and get treated if you're infected.

People with gonorrhea are more likely to be infected



with HIV by an infected partner .

DO I HAVE GONORRHEA?

As with other STDs, the only way to know for sure if you have gonorrhea is to get tested. Getting tested is easy. To test you for gonorrhea, your healthcare provider will collect a urine (pee) or a swab sample. STD tests should not hurt at all but if you do experience discomfort, tell your provider.

1 in 2 sexually active people...

will get an STD by the age of 25.



POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS

Most people don't experience any symptoms when they have gonorrhea, but if you do notice something unusual, your symptoms might include:

- Abnormal discharge from the vagina, penis, or rectum
- Burning when you pee
- Pain or discomfort during sex
- Itching, pain, bleeding, or discharge from your rectum
- Painful bowel movements

Women may also experience pain in the belly or back (sometimes with a fever) and bleeding after sex or between periods.

GETTING TREATED

Fortunately, most forms of gonorrhea can be easily treated with antibiotics; however, some forms of drug resistant (incurable) gonorrhea are showing up in the U.S.

It is important to know that someone can become re-infected with gonorrhea. Because of this, it's important



GONORRHEA 101 continued...



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that all the sex partners of an infected person get tested and treated (if they are infected).

People with gonorrhea should not have sex until they - and their sex partners - finish treatment.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Get Educated

For vaginal and anal sex: Learn how to use latex condoms the right way, and use them every time. They're the only way to prevent STDs during vaginal and anal sex.

For oral sex: Use condoms for oral sex on a penis, and dental dams for oral sex on a vagina or anus.

For fingering, hand jobs, and other intimate touching: Wash your hands with soap and water after touching your partner's genitals before touching your own (and vice versa). To be extra safe, some people choose to use latex gloves. Find what works for you.

Get Tested

Getting tested with your partner and treating any infection, will keep you safe from the negative consequences of gonorrhea.

Be Smart

Have sex with only one partner, who has been tested and is not infected, and who is only having sex with you.

Stay Clear

Avoid drinking alcohol and doing drugs before you have sex. It's difficult to make good decisions when under the influence.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- "Pulling out" before a man ejaculates into the vagina or anus
- Birth control (it only reduces risk for pregnancy)
- Washing your genitals, peeing, or douching after sex

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about gonorrhea and other STDs visit:

- www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/know
- www.plannedparenthood.org
- www.weRnative.org

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